



Collyer sculp.

I saw Heaven!



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I saw Heaven!

THE
M A N
OF
N A T U R E.

Translated from the FRENCH

BY

J A M E S B U R N E.

VOLUME I.

S O L I T U D E.

Descendre du ciel à la terre, & de la terre
remonter jusqu'au séjour brillant des astres.

LUCRECE, Liv. I.

L O N D O N :

Printed for T. CADELL, in the Strand,

M.DCC.LXXIII.

THE
M A N
OF
N A T U R E

Illustrations by

BY
JAMES DURNETT



S O L T U D I

Printed by J. D. Durnett, at the
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W.C.



Advertisement.

THE Translator of the *Man of Nature*, fears it will be objected to this work, that it deviates materially from the original. He found it necessary to suppress some passages, and to correct many others; and he flatters himself he shall meet with the indulgence of the Reader, for the liberty he has ventured to take, of introducing the pleasing story at the end of the Second Volume.

He “Launches his little Bark
into the Ocean of Criticism” with
all that diffidence which attends
a first

ADVERTISEMENT.

a *first* attempt towards public favour. If it serves to instruct and amuse the leisure hour of the candid Reader, his most sanguine wishes will be amply gratified.

E. H. T.



known by what things I came there;
without ever having seen any thing but
the island and the animals; except

THE

MAN OF NATURE.

AT the age of twenty, I learned
there were other beings in the
creation besides myself. — That they
had the power of communicating their
thoughts otherwise than by signs. — That
they lived in houses. — That they de-
stroyed each other in a thousand ways. —
That some were poor, and others rich,
&c. &c. — I learned all these things of
an old man whom I met at the extre-
mity of the island, from whence I write
Vol. I. B these

2 THE MAN OF

these memoirs, and which I had inhabited a long time without ever having seen a human being, without having known by what means I came there, without ever having seen any thing but this island and some animals; except the inside of a large wooden cage in which I was shut up during the first fifteen years of my life, which contained a small band-box of pasteboard, a fly, some straw, a stone; meat, bread, fruits, and water, with which I was supplied by means which I could not discern, and which I admired the more, as it was to me the source of life, and which I have admired less since I have been accustomed to greater wonders.

THIS machine was constructed in the same manner as that in nunneries called the turning box, which is fixed in the wall to move round.

I shall relate in its proper place in what manner, and for what reason, I learned to write; I shall tell by what lucky accident I knew my own history, why I travelled into a civilized country, and what induced me to return as soon as possible into this island which is so dear to me. **MEN OF NATURE,** do not love long prefaces, I begin.

CHAP. II.

FROM the first moment that I recollect my own existence, to the age of fifteen, when I was transported into this island then desert, but which I have the pleasure of seeing now peopled with a worthy race of men, my history is not very interesting; I shall therefore pass lightly over the early part of my life.

I was so very young when I was shut into the cage which I have mentioned, that I do not recollect any thing that happened anterior. I was naked, but a stove lighted in the winter, warmed the chamber where my cage stood; the straw on which I lay was the
same

same during at least twelve years that I was confined.—They only gave me a fresh truss, every six or eight months; I found it when I awoke; they placed it there whilst I slept, by raising a trap door on the top, but they could not take away that which was there already without awaking me, and it was determined that I should neither hear nor see a human being till the time I should be restored to society.

THE cage in which I was confined, some straw, a turning box fixed in the cage, a small band-box, and a wooden bowl chained, composed my house and all my furniture. I did not know from whence came these boards, this straw, &c. nor what they were, having nothing to which to compare them, nor by consequence any means of judging of their origin, or destination; I gave myself no

trouble to think about them ; I looked at my turning box with much the same indifference, at least during the four or five first years of my confinement, but after that I felt an anxious desire, an ardent wish, to know and to esteem these worthy beings to whom I was thus indebted for my nourishment. I found my box every morning full of provisions, and never disturbed myself to enquire from whence they came. Many men who are not confined in a cage do much the same. It is want and misfortunes alone that can prompt them to reason, or open their eyes, and it was those excellent tutors that first enlightened me.

C H A P. III.

THEY one day forgot me. When I awoke, according to custom I cast my eye on the object of my wishes, my box, and I did not see any thing in it; I thought myself mistaken, I rose hastily, looked more narrowly, and saw I was not deceived; I waited some minutes hoping to be witness to what never happened but during my sleep. No provisions appeared, and I was hungry; my impatience rose almost to fury, I beat my breast, I wept, I cried out, and struck the box repeatedly with my hand; I turned it about several times; these were stratagems I had not yet tried, because I had hitherto stood in no need of any. At length they heard me and

brought provisions; it was with difficulty they were able to turn the box properly to receive it, for when I saw it in motion, I held it with all my strength; my ignorance thus delayed the gratification of my desires. At last I quitted my hold, they put in my allowance, and turned it towards me.

I snapped greedily at a part of it, and expressed the greatest joy, as I devoured it. My purveyors observed me, and being of those kind of men who unfortunately for themselves, as well as for others, take delight in teasing those who are in their power (they were servants) they endeavoured to bring back the box to their side; as soon as I perceived their intention, I stopped it with my hands, and with my teeth, and I screamed aloud. I heard them laugh immoderately. I did not know from whence the noise
came,

came, but I thought it expressed joy. I was enraged, and redoubled my cries; at a great distance a strong voice pronounced these words distinctly, *Let him alone, let him alone*, and they ceased to torment me.

TILL this accident, which roused my understanding, I only vegetated quietly at the bottom of my cage, rather like a plant than like an animal; but I now became a new being; I felt my ideas unfold; I was desirous to improve and bring them to perfection; I had never attempted any other than indeterminate and inarticulate sounds. I undertook boldly to repeat the words which I had just heard; I said first, "*Let him*". It was a great deal for the first attempt: the success of this encouraged me; I added almost at the same instant, "*Let him alone.*" I laughed, I exulted at my

own sagacity, and continually repeated *Let him alone, let him alone.* This day was to me a day of rejoicing; before this event I always smiled simply, whether I played with my fingers, or with a straw, when I saw my box well stored with provisions, or when I opened and shut my band-box, which had diverted me, since I grew tall enough to take it down; but from that moment I began to smile with skill, and to laugh with knowledge; till that day I had been capable only of a little astonishment mixed with stupidity at the light which entered my cage through holes that were near the top; I now began to suppose the cause of that light must be something beautiful. In the same manner I judged from the scene to which I had just been a witness; I concluded that there were other living beings existing, but that they were doubtless of an inferior nature, not even excepting

excepting him at whose command they ceased to persecute me.

TILL that day I had drank without observing that the water reflected the light, and that I might see myself in it; on that day, as I sought to make some new discovery, I looked into my bowl; whilst my eye hung over it, I was struck with a figure, that at first terrified; but afterwards pleased me when I had the courage to observe it more narrowly. But what did I behold there? Alas! I knew not! I could not tell whether the water only reflected objects, or whether it contained what it represented. Comparison and inference soon taught me what I ought to believe.

NEAR the figure that I took such delight in beholding, I observed the side of my cage, and the upper part of the

box on which the bowl was fixed. There was not any thing between it and the upper part of my box but my head ; I concluded then that it must be that head which I beheld with such admiration, and surely there was cause for this sensation ; the head of a man seen by an imagination as untaught as mine was, is a sight as astonishing as it is beautiful. I wanted to view it closer and more at my ease ; I pulled the bowl with all my force, I broke the chain that fastened it, and fell on my back in the straw ; by this new phenomenon I made two discoveries, the laws of motion and the delightful sensation of bathing ; for all the water emptied on my stomach as I fell, and ran down to my feet, which was so agreeable and pleasant to me that I constantly washed myself from that time.

- THE day on which I reasoned and made so many discoveries, seemed very short. Evening arrived, and I could hardly close my eyes. If I had read the charming fables of *La Fontaine*, as I have since done, I should have repeated the words of the clown who desired that the size of the fruit should be in proportion to the bulk of the tree.

"So much wisdom is an enemy to sleep."

At length I fell into a quiet slumber, and did not awake till I was roused by the loud knocking of a hammer, which did not last long; I fell asleep again, and slept till the next day.

I had not put my bowl back into the turning box; I knew not whether it was a desire to have a moveable of which I was the intire master, that made me keep it by my bed side: I rather think
I was

I was not so foolish ; however this may be, after I awoke I saw another chained in the box, and what surprized me still more was that the first was filled with water by my side. My attendants observed me from time to time through some of the holes which gave me light, and had seen me wash myself: to continue to me that pleasure, they had filled my bowl by means of a leathern pipe which they passed through one of the holes. I drank and washed me.

WITHOUT considering how the water could have got into the bowl that I had dragged from off the chain ; I imagined it might be easier filled if I should put it on the box, which I accordingly did. I did not know how, or by what kind of being I was attended, but I took a delicate pleasure in lessening the trouble of those who had the care of me. I applauded.

plauded myself for having this generous sentiment, and they continued to give me water to drink and to wash me every day.

C H A P. IV.

TO the enjoyment of these pleasures, I added that of singing; I had indeed attempted to sing before, but I now endeavoured to make myself more perfect; I tried in my way to quaver, to form a kind of trembling in my voice, yet there was something wanting; I was weary of musick without words, I set to musick, "*Let him alone;*" you may easily judge how harmonious it was. But notwithstanding my intire ignorance, the musick sometimes agreed with the words; however, I was always satisfied with it. I sung, I looked at myself in the water, I repeated my lesson, I put on a look of importance at this new acquisition, and I became fully satisfied with myself: my days glided pleasantly
on;

on; and though I might not be perfectly happy, yet I cannot say that I was otherwise. One of my greatest pleasures was that which I received from my mirror; I was at last fully convinced that it was *myself* whom I saw; I took hold of my chin, my nose, my ears; sometimes I made grimaces, sometimes put on a gracious smile; I repeated or sung, "*Let him alone,*" and I applauded myself for all these little affectations.

CHAP. V.

ONE day as I was very busy, I saw my cage first incline to one side, immediately after to the other, and at last felt it rise up softly, and move forward. I was frightened, but soon recovered myself; and without knowing that they carried me, I felt my situation very agreeable. I stopt to listen to a hoarse voice, whose muttering disturbed me. I could not hear any thing distinctly; but I think, on recollecting the sounds since I learned to speak, that I heard the voice say at that moment, Yes, go on, Sing, sing. And I did not cease till I felt the cage stop. I listened and heard a noise; it seemed to come near me, and as it approached it grew louder. I ceased to sing, I was even afraid. My
terror

terror greatly increased, when being a second time stopt, I felt myself descending, and rolling on something that made a hollow noise, and at last let down still lower. I perceived a very disagreeable smell, and a thousand sounds that were more or less shrill, the whole of which to me had something very doleful. I wept and attempted to speak ; I wanted comfort, but alas ! I had nobody to administer it ; I sought for it within myself. I made (for the first time since I knew myself) a connected reflection, which calmed, by deceiving me ; it was all that was necessary at that moment.

C H A P. VI.

I Am, said I, (in a certain interior language which all men have, and which even animals appear to possess to a certain degree) I am certainly the only necessary being; all others are made for my use. I have reason to believe that others exist besides me; they serve me, but they do not call on me to render them services; they fear me, and I have nobody to fear. They neglected me once, I put myself in a passion, and they have not forgot me since; if ever it should so happen again, I shall employ the same means, and what can happen to me? What can come into this space in which I am inclosed? this inclosure has always surrounded

rounded me ; what being is there that can enter by any other passage than by this machine which conveys my daily subsistence ? Whatever enters by that way must consequently be less than me, and I can crush it : I cannot therefore have any danger to apprehend.

DELIGHTED to find within myself such an excellent stock of logic, I yielded to those arguments. Men are sometimes convinced by arguments full as absurd ; and I listened without very great emotion, to the universal rattling that surrounded me. I thought night would never end, and it was the first I ever passed without sleep.

LIGHT just appeared when I saw my turning box move in the same way, as when I so strongly obstructed its motion some days before ; but I now knew the consequence,

consequence, and therefore I did not hinder it. In a few moments after, it returned as I expected, filled with provisions: to console myself for the loss of my rest, I prepared to eat; but I had soon lost the desire.

C H A P. VII.

HAD my bread and meat, and even the vessels that held my water, suddenly moved, if they had changed places and danced, I should not have been greatly surprized. I had seen my fingers and all my other limbs do much the same, and I had been used to their movements. But a little black figure, not equal in size to the hundredth part of a mouthful of bread, which I saw dancing, leaping, supporting itself in the air, setting me at defiance, and tickling my hands and face, created a mixture of fear and surprise, which I could not get the better of.

A pompous description perhaps you will say, and a fly the subject; true, but
you

you will not find it too lively if you put yourself in the place of a man, who having never beheld any thing but himself, sees a fly. I do not know whether it was by chance that none had ever entered my cage, but certainly this was the first; had others got in before this, I should have seen them, as nothing could escape my eyes. My soul, which was filled with an eager desire of knowledge, and a still greater desire to feel pleasing impressions, employed the faculties of my mind continually to make new discoveries of all that passed within the narrow compass to which I was limited.

I had found a companion; it was necessary to secure the possession of so valuable a treasure. My fly had feet and wings, it might escape in the night by the same passage by which it entered. To take off its feet and wings, might have been

a means of detaining it, but I knew less than the Owl in La Fontain's fables: nor should I have been capable of following an example of such cruel policy, worthy only of owls. I scarcely dared to touch my poor little animal: for though I had not the least idea of death, yet I felt that I ought to fear for it, even if I had no respect for the thinness and delicacy of its make; instinct taught me this, as I have seen great dogs spare the little ones with which they play.

To secure it during the night (for in the day time I watched it closely) I formed a project of catching it every evening and putting it without violence, head foremost into a tube of straw, which I intended to split open in the morning to set it at liberty; but by what means was this to be effected? I tried many ways; at last I succeeded by the com-

mon mode ; by running my hand rapidly along on a line with it, I caught it. By taking it thus every evening, I kept it till the day I quitted my cage.

INSTEAD of following my first project of putting it into a pipe of straw, which might have killed, or at least wounded it, I proposed holding it in my hand all night, as I held it at that moment : but I soon found that this would be impossible, as in sleeping I could not have that attention to my hand to keep it always closed. I also perceived the little creature struggled in my hand, and seemed to be in a state of uneasiness and anxiety ; I took pity on it. I judged it would make me very unhappy if I were confined in so narrow a compass as my fly was. These reflections made me try to find out some other stratagem for its safety ; I at last hit upon one ; which
was,

was, to throw out all the water that remained in the unchained bowl, to turn it up side down, and with all imaginable caution to put my fly under it : I kept this bowl turned down, always near me ; but I had reason to fear they would not give me a third to wash me. I dragged away that which was chained, as I had succeeded so well once before. When I awoke I found a new one in my box ; and I felt, at seeing it, a tender sensation of gratitude for those beings that thus carefully attended me ; I was as much pleased with myself as with them ; I did not fail to put two vessels into the box every evening, and kept the third for the preservation of the fly ; I sometimes shut it up in my band-box. We became intimately acquainted, and it was tamed ; we formed a kind of friendship, more sincere than is sometimes found among men. I perceived it eat ; this

confirmed me in the idea I had already formed, that food is necessary to nourish and support life. I observed it with more attention and pleasure than the most experienced naturalist. Whenever I saw it fasten on a bit of bread, or meat, I never attempted to touch any thing near it; but remained fixed, scarcely breathing for fear of driving it from its little repast. It will grow larger to be sure, considered I, like me, but its size will not increase as fast as mine, since it eats so much less.

I thought it ought to drink, since it eat, but that it had reason to fear drinking out of my cup, because it was too large for it. I covered the bowls with my hand, and drove it away when it would have gone near the water. At last I put some drops of water out for it on the box, and endeavoured to make
it

it see them ; when it chanced to come to them, I jumped about for joy, and would not disturb it, but said or sung in a low voice, "*Let him alone?*"

C H A P. VIII.

FOR many days past, I had been quiet; the noise that was made round me, did not disturb me so much as it had done at first; I was as much reconciled to it as any one who could not account for the cause, nor know from whence it proceeded. I began to enjoy myself once more, and my innocent pleasures were greatly increased at seeing another living being.—One morning, as the first rays of light broke in upon me, I opened my eyes, and as usual cast a look of pleasure toward my box that was stored with provisions; I went to set my dear companion at liberty, something seemed to me to enter my brain at once, and overturn my cage; I could
not

not tell what to compare it to ; I felt as if I was just awoke from a sound sleep. I have since found that it was a cannon shot ; that I was embarked, and was sailing.

The rolling of my cage lasted a long time, at least three weeks ; I could not reconcile myself to this motion. What displeased me the most was, that I often in the evenings could not catch my fly, because I could not support myself steadily, being in a continual motion ; and I passed the nights with great anxiety when I could not catch my little companion. *One* of these nights that I could not sleep, I heard a whistling, a great noise and frightful cries——They would have appeared so to those who knew the cause of them ; I was but lightly affected ; I felt no uneasiness on my own account, but merely compassion for the

beings whom I considered as destined to serve me ; in whose voices I could distinguish something plaintive. The wind, the hail, the thunder, the beating of the waves, the rough shaking of my cage, were all new to me ; but I was more astonished than alarmed. I saw nothing to create any terror. My fly and me, and some other animals, if there were any in the ship, were the only things that were not frightened at the tempest : and in this the justice of the divine disposer is apparent. It was not those animals, or a *Man of Nature* like me, who had improved the method of braving the ocean, consequently neither them nor me ought to have been punished, at least by fear ; for with respect to perishing, if that should happen, it would not have been a punishment to us, but a necessary evil which we should have had no more reason to complain of, than of meeting a famished

famished lion, or perishing by any other accident.

THE storm lasted till day appeared, they then brought me my provisions; I began to be angry, and although I suspected that what I had heard kept the people busily employed, yet I thought it wrong that so trifling a matter should prevent their attending to so essential a concern as the supplying my wants. My anger subsided instantly on seeing my box stored as usual, and if I could have beheld the hand that served me, I should have caressed it; for *Men of Nature* are never vindictive. Our hearts are tablets, on one side of which is written in a legible hand, the benefits we receive; on the reverse, the injuries done to us, but to this last we never turn. This tumult and moving lasted many days; at last I arrived — Great God! whom I

had the happiness of knowing some time after, because some time after I became acquainted with my own soul and nature, and found thee there! what an æra for me, and I presume to say for thee, and thy glory, is that from which I resume my story!

C H A P. IX.

I Had passed a quiet night, my cage was not shaken about as usual, and there was not any noise made. I imagined I felt myself carried, in the same manner as before I embarked; but when I awoke, I thought it might have been a dream, for often the few objects that engaged my attention in the day were recalled, and appeared again to my imagination under very whimsical forms.

For example; that night I dreamed that my fly became on a sudden of an equal size with myself, that it took a bit of bread, that it eat, and that it gave me a bit; that afterwards it mounted up upon my body, till it got on my
C 6 shoulders,

shoulders; by this means being become twice as high, it had touched the upper part of my cage, and had thrust it outwards. This made so lively an impression on me, that I awoke and jumped up. My attendants who were observing me, had waited for me to awake.

C H A P. X.

ON casting my eyes around me, I perceived something very different to what I had been used to, in the turning-box, and by my bed-side. I thought it was a different kind of provision, and intended to eat a part of it as soon as I could find my fly, for I could not catch him the evening before, as my cage did not cease moving till night. As I anxiously sought for him, my cage overturned on the side on which I was, and all my provisions and water fell upon me out of the box; I retired backwards, crawling on my hands and feet, and got to the top of the cage; before I touched it, the lid fell outwards, and I beheld *the firmament*. — What a sight! To be sensible

sible of the wonderful effect it had on me, you must have seen it at my age for the first time. My companion flew away, and I had no desire to detain, nor even attend to it in the least ; I was not uneasy at what was fallen out of the turning-box, nor at any thing I observed round my cage. HEAVEN ! was at once opened to my view ; I stood motionless.—Torrents of tears flowed from my eyes. Ah ! how sweet were those tears ! —I saw HEAVEN.—If I am the only man that has ever beheld it so late in life, I am the only one to whom it appeared so beautiful.

A desire to see and to gain knowledge succeeded my admiration ; I came forward, I came half way out ; I retired, terrified at the appearance of the trees, rocks, and mountains, which I saw round me. It is not that all these wonderful objects

objects did not fill me with admiration, but their proximity alarmed me. I came forward again, I lifted my hands to HEAVEN, and I strove to raise myself up: I fell upon my knees. I gave way to my own weight and weakness. I came on sadly towards the extremity of my cage, to try at least if the earth would receive me into its bosom. My cage was not intirely overturned, but made with the ground, to which it was inclined, a very acute angle, so that I might leap on the earth without any danger of hurting myself. While I was deliberating, I perceived the bottom of the cage rise up, which lowered the upper part; I threw myself on the ground, on my hands; the cage rose up nearly the same height it was before, and I heard a slight noise behind me, which I did not attend to.

I rose

I rose up and jumped for joy to find myself removed from so small, dark and disagreeable a cage, to one so spacious and charming. It was bounded by the sea on all sides, being an island; but the land extended so far on the side where I was at that time, that the sea appeared to me only a small bluish object, which terminated the perspective and the horizon. I turned my head round, I saw only the narrow prison I had got out of, and behind it a wood. But I imagined, by the immense bend of the firmament, that the wood hid a part of the earth from me, equal to that which I had before my eyes. To remove this obstruction, I walked a few steps to the right hand, I perceived *the sea*: (It was much nearer to me on that side, than from the place where I had first seen it) New subject of wonder and of extacy. My ravished eyes wandered from heaven to earth,
from

from the earth to the sea, and from the sea to heaven again. And neither my heart nor my eyes could be satiated. At that instant my senses only glanced at small objects, I fixed my attention on the great ones. Heaven, earth, the sea, sometimes a mountain, or a forest; these only could engage my contemplation.

HOWEVER, after my first transports were satisfied, my curiosity began to select objects, and subdivide them: I wished to examine things separately. I saw three animals that ran towards the sea. The distance they were from me, made me think they were less than myself; but other features of likeness made me do them the honour to think they were nearly of my own species, and really I should have suspected they were, if they had not been clothed. One of them particularly interested me much; he stopped
from

from time to time, turning his head round, seemed to wish to return to me; I felt also a strong desire to go towards him. I tried to follow, I gave two leaps; at the second, I fell on my hands. I found myself more secure in this position, having four supporters; but I had more difficulty in advancing: whether it was that they used me to stand before they put me into the cage, or whether walking on all fours be not natural to man, but in my cage I had always stood upright. I then got up, and resolved to go quietly to the sea. It was at least at the distance of four musket shots, which to me was a long journey.

They placed near my cage many small baskets filled with provisions. Hunger directed me to take up one of them.

On

On my way, I found a stick, which appeared to me to have the power of supporting me; after many trials I found the way to make it useful to me; I became in some things as expert as the *Oran-Outan* (a kind of monkey): and I was very well pleased with this discovery that afforded me a new support. At some distance, beyond the three men whom I saw running on the beach, was the ship which brought me to the island, in which they were going to reembark. Here, said I, is a cage much larger than mine: for what purpose can that be?

I made many confused reflections on this subject; but by degrees they were afterwards explained.

My three attendants having joined their companions, while I was debating with myself about the utility of this cage,
I observed

I observed it to move farther from me; I stopped with surprise to be certain that it was not the earth that retired. But I discovered instantly that it was the ship that went off, and I pursued my way. I had almost reached the sea, and continued to look after the ship, when I saw a whirling flame issue from it, accompanied with a terrible noise: I fell flat, and thought I was killed. It is true, I had already heard the sound of a cannon, at my departure; but a *Man of Nature* could not reconcile himself to so terrible a noise by hearing it twice. Besides, I had only heard the noise the first time; and I was not as at that moment surrounded by a thousand new objects, which excited in me a multitude of opposite sensations.——The kind of dread that I had upon me is one of nature's kindest benefits, she has made most animals more timid than courageous; it is generally

generally easier to fly danger than to conquer it. We measure dangers at first sight by the appearance. If you should meet at the turning of a road, a painted statue, representing a monster, with its mouth gaping horribly, ready to swallow you, you would surely retire with the utmost precipitation; by this you may judge what effect a sight so entirely new to me ought to produce, a whirling flame of fire and smoke, accompanied with a most terrible noise.

RECOVERING a little from my fright, I rose up, took my basket and stick, and continued my journey towards the sea. I had the sun in front; the light and heat of it penetrated to my heart; I admired it, and cast myself down before it, I attempted to look at this beautiful star, it dazzled me, but I did not murmur, I adored it without complaining.

As

As I approached the sea, I saw a shrub agitated by the wind : it was of a singular kind, and stood by itself ; I do not know how it had taken root in the sand. I felt a warm and gentle wind encircle my whole body ; (you cannot doubt but I attributed this grateful breeze to the sun) ; I saw the shrub incline towards that side, where I felt that I should have inclined myself, if I had been as pliant. The few herbs and plants that were at some distance, bent also to the same side : I concluded that the breath of the sun had the same effect on them as on me. The moving of their leaves was exactly repeated by their shadow, which amused me. I turned about ; I saw a huge body stretched on the surface of the earth ; fear made me step back, and instantly it made one forwards.——I took courage, finding it did me no injury ; it had a basket and a

stick as I had. I set down my basket, it did the same. To try if it had the same powers as I had, I said "*Let him alone*;" it was silent. This was a convincing proof of my superiority: and without giving myself time to remark, that the gift of speech is but a trifling advantage when it is necessary to employ strength, I threw myself on the phantom to seize it, and endeavoured to find out what it was; but when I was on the ground it disappeared. I arose, and it arose with me.—I found this phenomenon very difficult to be accounted for, and as I returned from the sea, I tried to explain it.

C H A P. XI.

OF the three great objects that then filled my soul, the earth made the softest, though not the most lively impression on my mind. I loved it as a child does its mother. It was quite different with respect to the others, the sea, and the firmament. This last filled me with rapture, I beheld it trembling: when I had reached the strand, and saw the regular motion and majestic rolling of the waves, I was struck with wonder and respect. The sea seemed to be a moving heaven; I even thought that the sky was indebted to the sea for that rich and beautiful azure with which it is painted, and that it was only its reflection. As I approached the sea, I felt the
the

the sand more and more moist ; I sunk a little into it, and was astonished, though it amused me. That I might be more active, I laid down my basket, and walked on with my stick. When I was close by the water, I observed this new element ; I knew it to be the same that I had drank, and that had served me as a looking glass ; I took a little in the hollow of my hand, and I saw that the blue of the heavens was not in the water, that it only reflected it. I approached with some degree of uneasiness, to behold myself ; for since my new birth, that is to say, in other words, since an hour or two, I almost doubted whether I was the same being : I again knew my face, I saw my whole body, and was charmed. Afterwards, I laid me down on the brink to take a draught, but spit it out immediately, as it was disagreeable to my palate.

If it was not drinkable, it was at least good to bathe in. I fixed my stick in the sand, and walked into the water up to my neck; I went on still further till it covered my head, and I began to swim; for nature has taught all animals this easy, agreeable, and sometimes necessary, art. I should have gone a great way into the sea, and swam a long time, if I had not seen a large fish that seemed to pursue me. I regained the beach: took my stick and basket, and after having eat a little, and rested myself, returned anxiously towards my cage, to see if any thing new had happened.

C H A P. XII.

I Had now the sun at my back, I saw my shadow as I got out of the sea, and was not afraid; I was more readily reconciled to it, than to the roaring of the cannon. I strove to discover what this shadow was, and what was its cause. I looked around me, for I supposed that by comparison only, I should be able to judge accurately. I saw that every tree, like me, had its shadow, that the zephyrs that gently shook the leaves and branches, agitated also in the same manner those of the false trees. This began to make me understand it; for a moment I thought the surface of the earth was a mirror like the water, but that for a reason which I

suspected (its darkness) it represented the objects black, instead of shewing things in their natural colours as the water did. Which ever way I turned, I saw myself in the water; why is it not the same on the earth? Why do I not see myself as I go towards the sea, and yet do, when returning on the opposite side? This led me to make new observations. I remarked that my shadow and the shade of the trees, were all inclined to the side opposite to the sun and sea. I then concluded that the cause of this projection must be either the sea, or the sun. I was inclined to think it the sun, as it appeared to me still more wonderful than the sea: and reason supported my conjecture. The level of the sea was below the earth. The sun on the contrary darted its rays more or less obliquely on the earth; it must therefore necessarily happen, that the body that intercepts its light
must

must cast a greater or less shadow on the earth, according to the point from whence the sun sends forth its glorious light. I saw with a kind of satisfaction that this beautiful effect must be attributed to the sun: could I have ascribed it to any other being?—An idea rose in my mind at that time which has often since made me laugh. Those beings, thought I, that had attended me, those inferior beings which the water carried away with their cage, only possess the power of repeating inarticulate sounds, as I, who am their master, know no other. But then whence that voice that pronounced those words which I repeat so well? doubtless that was the voice of the sun! I then came to a resolution to make 'a 'friendship with it. It was the only object that seemed worthy of my regards. (I was not so disdainful at the time I had seen only a fly.) I turned me toward this

bright body, and after having prostrated myself before it, for my veneration for it did not diminish in the least; I said in a serious and respectful tone: "*Let him alone.*" I expected it would either come to me, draw me to it, or answer me. When I found it did neither, I thought it did not hear me. "It is at too great a distance; doubtless it was much nearer to me when it pronounced these words which I repeat; but perhaps it will come near to me, and I will then go and join it."

C H A P. XIII.

IN the mean time I resolved to make some other acquaintance. My fly had given me a relish for society, or rather this relish is natural to mankind; and it only waited for an opportunity to unfold itself. Trees and rocks, I found very accessible; I admired them, they pleased me greatly: but their faculties were not sufficient to satisfy me. I wished them to possess those of speech and motion; I had already as I returned from the sea lavished on them a thousand caresses, had touched them, and sought to make them move: I said, and I sung to them in a tone of affection, "*Let him alone;*" but they would not answer.

I was a little better pleased with some small fish and a few crabs I saw on the sea shore ; I put as many of them as I could in my basket, because they diverted me by their movements. At first I hardly dared to touch them, and I took them up with some distrust. I feared them without knowing they could bite. Fear is the best defensive armour which nature has given us.

C H A P. XIV.

THUS continually making observations, and philosophising, without knowing what philosophy was, I came near my cage, and began to look at the outside of it (I had many other things to attract my attention when I left it.) My first care was to study the construction of the turning-box. It was very simple. I conceived nearly how it played; but could not have any just idea of the pivots, as they were hid in the boards. The remainder of the outside of the cage did not detain me long; it consisted of four sides and four angles; I had inspected the inside for too long a time to give myself any further trouble about it.

AFTER this I looked at the provisions which they had put near my cage. There was only sufficient to last a few days, which made me think, that when they were consumed, I should be again served as usual. As I have already said, my provisions were in baskets: I perceived at some distance under a tree, a heap of herbs, roots, and fruit. Some fruits were hung by a thread on the lower branches of the trees, to inform me by this kind of hieroglyphick, that I should shortly have no other fruits, but such as the trees afforded. I did not understand it at that moment; on the contrary, I believed that the fruits had flown up like my fly, and rested on the branches. I pulled one, it made some resistance: I then thought the tree was obstinately determined to retain them, I was angry, shook the branch, and all fell together. — You are very wrong, thought I, having

having so high an opinion of yourself, to think so disadvantageously of other beings. Have you reason to complain of any, except those who one day in your prison would have taken away the provisions they had just given you? Why judge of others by them? And have not even those that teized you made ample amends since, for the vexation they created you? This reflection pleased me, and I applauded myself for having made it. The more it induced me to form tender connections with all around, the more it enlarged the sphere of my happiness.

AFTER having eat the fruit, I tasted some of the roots and plants which they had gathered for me. I saw some of the same kind growing round me, some half pulled out of the earth, others not yet touched. Good, cried I, if my slaves do not return precisely the day that I

shall have consumed the last of my provisions, here is wherewithal to live, in their absence.

I was uneasy that I had not given myself time to examine if those provisions were the same they had given me, when they overturned the cage, and which had fallen on my body. I went hastily to taste them; I threw my hands on the upper part of the cage, and prepared to jump into it; but a reflection made me retire. If I return into it, and while I am in it, some being should put on the cover, how shall I get out? This was quite sufficient to make me abandon my project; but I was willing to see what I had lost. I returned to the cage; I seized the upper part, and raised myself on my tip-toes. The opening was only about five feet high; it was supported by a beam that passed under it about the center, which

which kept the upper part in the air, the other rested on the ground: consequently it was nearly on an equilibrio, so much that by my hanging on it, I pulled it down to my side, and almost upon me: I believed it was become in an instant a living being that would swallow me up, and I fled from it to a considerable distance. I was more astonished, as it never had given any signs of life; at last I took courage and came to it, being curious to see what had fallen out of it. All it contained tumbled out together in a heap. I found myself in my straw again, with my vessels and other things which I took to be provisions, and my pasteboard box. I took somewhat that I found under my hand, I felt that I could not eat it, (it was a shirt.) It seemed strange to me that they should put any thing there that was not eatable. What other purpose could it serve, since

it could not be eat? In short, I could not account for it.

I recollected instantly that the three beings whom I had seen going towards the sea, were covered with things like those which I now found; they had shirts, waistcoats, coats, &c.—Ah! ha! said I, because my slaves are ill made, and that they hide their defects with this kind of drapery, they wish me to be covered likewise, but I will wear no covering.

C H A P. XV.

HOWEVER, to divert me, I tried on one of those garments. It would have appeared to me sufficiently ridiculous, even if I had found out the method to place it properly. How much more so, must it be, when I put it on in the most opposite manner to what was intended? I put my legs into the shirts, and tucked them up about my body, and after many attempts, I tied garters round me to keep them up.

I could not conceive what end all this would answer; I saw nothing, except the shoes and stockings, that could be made useful to me. For though

I had only walked a little on the sand that day, my feet were sore, because I never had used them before. After having examined the shoes a long time, I found out their use; I tried them on; they were too coarse, too hard, and too tight. The stockings seemed to be only bits of cloth of a singular shape, but elegant; If I had opened them, I should have discovered their use; but without examining them closer, I took two pair, each of which I folded in three folds; I tied them on my feet with some cords, and made sandals of them; I took my stick in one hand and my shoes in the other; the appearance of which rejoiced me: thus equipped, I sought for water to look at myself. I did not go quite to the sea; I expected I should find some in a low piece of ground, which I saw at about fifty or sixty toises distance. Nature makes all animals a little geometrical,

cal, it teaches them by instinct what a level is. Besides nature, that wise and infallible guide, I had still another; they had placed a bowl full of water at a few steps from my cage; I had emptied it as I returned from the sea; another was also placed a little further, and a third on the top of a little hill, from whence water issued, which I esteemed with reason to be a reservoir; I went, and there was no water in this third vessel, but at the foot of the hill there was a charming sheet of water. Perhaps, thought I, as this is not near so large as the piece of water in which I bathed, it may be of a better kind. However, it was not because the quantity of water was less than the sea, that I thought it should be better; but in two or three hours I had seen many strange things, and consequently, I had acquired more ideas, and philosophy; I argued better than when
I thought

I thought during the storm, *that as no ill has ever happened to me, so none ever can affect me.* Such reasoning would have been unworthy any other than a *Man of Nature* who had never seen any thing; or a civilized man, whom prejudices or education had inured to see things in false lights.

As I attempted to go down the little hill, one of the shirts that served me for drawers got loose; I set my foot upon it, tumbled, and rolled down the hill; I quitted my shoes and stick, but they were sooner at the bottom than me. If the water had not been at a little distance from the hill, they would have rolled into it, and I should have followed them; then I should have experienced how inconvenient dress sometimes is, as I should have been prevented swimming at my ease. I got up
and

and went to the water, I looked at myself, I compared my present appearance with that which I saw in the sea, and my accoutrements seemed very foolish.

A 2 I was used to drink out of a cup and did not bring that with me which I found empty on the hill. I had three expedients, from which I chose one: either to lie down on my belly, and sip the water, take some up in the hollow of my hand, or in one of my shoes. This last seemed the most eligible; I tried it. The water tasted ill, but not so very bad as the sea water; I drank two sops of it, and afterwards bathed myself, having first taken off my drawers, for they contained too much, and I could not get any good reason that could engage me, or as I styled them, my flaves, to wear such clothes. Really there is but one reason that I can give

CHAP. XVI.

AS I was used to drink out of a cup, and did not bring that with me which I found empty on the hill, I had three expedients, from which I must chuse one : either to lye down on my belly, and lap the water, take some up in the hollow of my hand, or in one of my shoes. This last seemed the most eligible ; I tried it. The water tasted ill, but not so very bad as the sea water ; I drank two sups of it, and afterwards bathed myself, having first taken off my drawers, for they confined me too much, and I could not see any good reason that could engage men, or as I styled them, my slaves, to wear such dresses. Really there is but one reason that I can discover,

ver, which is to heighten the desires of love; which if it were accustomed to see every thing, would lose the pleasure the modest display of hidden beauty gives; but even for this purpose, plain light dresses are best.

BEFORE I left off bathing, I tasted the water; I found it excellent, though it tasted so ill when I drank out of my shoe. Why should the same water have such different tastes, by turns? Some reflections led me to a solution of this problem. I believed the difference might have proceeded from what the water passed through: I went and smelt my shoe, and knew it to be the same disagreeable odour that had disgusted me. The first ray of light is quickly followed by another: from this experiment that I had made on my shoe, I drew another inference. I supposed that the bitterness and salt taste
of

of the sea proceeded from the bottom of the bason that held it; this was a very plain argument. The water had no bad taste in the wooden vessel, such as were in my cage, or in earthen vessels such as I had just bathed in, because neither the wood nor the earth had a disagreeable taste or smell. But for the opposite reason, my shoe being of leather, the water smelt of a dead animal; and as the water of the ocean is bitter and salt, doubtless it is because the vessel that contains the sea is made of materials that are bitter and salt.

C H A P. XVII.

I Prepared to return to my cage. I had so many new objects before me that I could only pass lightly over them; I did not stop any where. Enchanted with my dexterity at knotting the garters, I tied them together, and slipped them round my two shirts, after I had made a bundle of them, and put my stockings in the middle; I dragged the bundle after me along the ground, and it entertained me much to see it follow me. I left my shoes on the shore, thinking by that to punish them for having spoiled the water which I had drank. I also left the vessel on the hill where I found it, as I proposed going for it some other time, when I should have occasion to use it.

As

As I went along towards my cage, I continued drawing my shirts after me; the string that tied them wore out and broke. I was angry with it, and flung the remainder away. I looked to find out the cause of what happened; I saw the outside of the shirt that was a covering to the rest, was full of dust and a little torn; I laughed heartily; I then reflected, and drew from this phenomenon a confused idea of the effects of friction. At length I arrived near my cage: being fatigued with walking, and thinking so much, I threw myself on the grass and slept.

C H A P. XVIII.

I Slept at least two hours : but my sleep was not profound, nor even quiet; not that I was under any apprehensions of danger, I was too ignorant to fear what did not strike my sight, and I did not see any thing to create terror at that instant; but troublesome dreams disturbed my rest; the great number and variety of objects that I had seen, had hurried my spirits.

I thought the sun broke loose from heaven, to come to, and join me, and that it fluttered about me like a fly. I saw the vessel that I had left on the little hill, return, drawing my shoes after it, as I had drawn the shirts; I thought

that my cage having rolled to the sea, had cast itself in (I laughed heartily at its manner of marching, but never tried to stop it.) I thought that a tree which I had spoke to and pressed in my arms, lowered its branches towards me, saying, "*Let him alone :*" and that encouraged by those melting words, I continued my caresses.

PERHAPS I may be asked how I can remember all those trifling circumstances. For a very good reason ; all things to me were but trifles, and the impressions of a man who has not seen any thing but a fly, till he arrives at the age of fifteen, are not easily to be effaced.

C H A P. XIX.

WHEN I awoke I beheld the firmament, and I thought I beheld it for the first time. It seemed to me to be more beautiful than ever : it was more serene ; and the azure blue of the horizon presented an unusual brightness. Tears of tenderness and joy streamed afresh from my eyes.——I sought to find some new discovery which might convey to me a new sensation of pleasure.

As they proposed to render my abode on this island agreeable to me, they determined to leave with me a dog ; a dog, is in effect the proper companion of an honest man, and I deserved this companion. They had only to take the wisest

precautions to procure it for me, without exposing me, to perhaps a mortal terror. (Remember that as yet I had not seen any thing, that I had made no comparisons of any thing : how violent then must have been my sensations, if on leaving my cage, I had been accosted by a dog? who whether he would have attempted to bite, or to caress me, would have accosted me with impetuosity.) To prepare me for this first surprize, they had chained the dog to a tree, behind my provisions ; they were sure I should not fail to go to this spot when I became hungry, and they doubted not but a *Man of Nature* must be too good, his feelings too tender, to behold an animal deprived of liberty, and not wish to restore it to him. Besides they were convinced the dog would ask this favour in such a manner as could not be resisted.

I did

I did not see him when I first tasted my fruit, but after I awoke, finding myself less dissipated, less absent, I observed every thing that surrounded me, within the compass of my view: and I beheld, at the foot of a tree, an animal enchained, who tried every effort to come to me, and seemed to beseech me to approach him, with the most moving complaints. I should have considered his collar and chain as a part of his body, and also a part of the trunk of the tree to which he was fastened, if I had not experienced in stopping my box from turning (p. 8), by the cup of water that fell on my body (p. 12), and lately by bathing, and supporting myself on my stick, that there are things which we may add to us occasionally. I beheld my dog for a long while without daring to approach him, though he besought me in the most expressive language. *The Man of Nature*

is a narrow observer, and a little inclined to be suspicious, which are qualities almost always productive of good. One serves to instruct us, the other teaches us to avoid numberless dangers.

AFTER having passed a long time in admiring my dog, in lamenting and desiring to restore him to liberty, yet fearing the danger of such an attempt; at length I approached him; he gently rested on my breast his two fore feet, which he had frequently presented to me at a distance, raising himself up and struggling with his chain. I felt for the first time the pleasure of being touched by a living creature; it was doubly pleasant to be addressed in that inexpressibly affecting, that engaging manner which we distinguish by the word CARESS.

WHILST my poor dog was thus caressing me, he sent forth the most sorrowful

rowful and tender cries, which compleatly won my heart. I saw that he asked of me his liberty : I feared that after I had obtained it for him, he would leave me as my fly had done ; (which I had not yet forgot to regret.) I resolved however to deliver him from his chain, if I could effect it, even though he should be so ungrateful as to forsake me after I had given him his freedom. But I could not find any method, by which I could either break or undo this chain ; when we have made a free use of our senses but for a day, one can have very little sagacity or skill.

I began to find myself grow hungry, I went to take a morsel of bread, and returned to eat it near my dog. I had seen a fly eat, a dog must still have more occasion. I offered him a little bit of bread, he opened his mouth so gently

that I thought he was not hungry, but as soon as he had got it, he devoured it with an eagerness that bespoke a ravenous appetite; I concluded very wisely therefore that he was afraid of biting me, or at least of alarming me; I felt that my affection for him grew stronger, and I gave him a larger piece of bread.

WHILST he was eating, I remarked on his collar a kind of opening; I examined it to see if by widening it, I could not give liberty to my friend, (for as such I regarded him,) my first efforts were unsuccessful. I began to reason on what I had best to do, and I found that reason is sometimes better than strength. But before I shew the consequence and manner of my reasoning, it is necessary the reader should know in what manner the collar was fastened. They had had the precaution to put a clasp, instead of a buckle
on

on it, because a clasp is a much more simple thing, and I could much sooner find out its mechanism. When I looked close at it, I saw that by pulling the collar I fastened the clasp stronger, and that by slackening it, the two sides of the clasp played separately, so that they seemed ready to come assunder; at length, by half reasoning and half chance, I lowered one side, at the same time that I raised up the other, and the collar remained in my hands. — My dog flew from it, ran round me and thanked me by a thousand caresses. — I still held the collar, and admired my hands. — This sentiment, so natural to self-love, soon gave way to one more noble, more delicate. The caresses of this animal, said I, in my own interior language, when he was chained, were cold, in comparison of those with which he addresses me now he is at liberty. I perceived by this that

the soul is oppressed and weighed down in slavery and misfortunes; but I beheld that it recovered in an instant all its force, its energy, when it recovered that inestimable jewel LIBERTY. In believing that the springs of the soul are restored to their wonted activity, when they are no longer borne down by immediate misfortunes, I was fallen into a pleasing error, caused by my inexperience. I have since felt but too sensibly, by some reverses of fortune to which I have been exposed, that accumulated woes disturb the peace of the soul for ever. No, my heart is no longer alive to that pure and delicious joy which I felt at finding a fly, a stick, a dog, &c. It is true that all those pleasures are absorbed in those which I receive from my wife and children, as the rivers and streams are lost in the bosom of the sea. But I feel, that independent of this, and of my age, which is

now verging towards its decline, I should have more sensibly enjoyed pleasure if I had been less unfortunate. I know since I have been restored to society, and that I know the immortal La Fontaine, that this great man was not rich, nor could he ever find out any means of becoming so, till after death deprived him of his benefactress, and friend, *Madame de la Sabliere*. He met another true friend, who offered him an asylum in his house, to whom he replied with what may be called a tender indifference, "I will go there." It is by a word of this kind which an unfortunate man lets fall, that a great but wounded soul is known.— Without the genius of La Fontaine, I have had much greater misfortunes than his, and I have nearly the same turn of mind that he had, when he made that remarkable answer.

CHAP. XX.

THE caresses of my dog, the pleasure of having found a friend, was a most agreeable sensation, but did not make me feel less strongly the principal objects which had first seized my soul. I no longer beheld the face of the sun, a corner of the wood hid it from my sight. Its absence gave me an inquietude which I could not express, and I ran after it just to the sea side; when the most ravishing sounds suddenly struck my ears, and opened a sensation in my soul, of which I had experienced only the first movement in my prison.—What melody!—What softness! I lifted my pure, my spotless hands to heaven. I felt the strongest gratitude to that power which seemed

to employ itself thus to promote my happiness; for I doubted not but these sounds came from heaven. I was lost for some moments in the most delicious extacy, without regarding any thing around me. In an interval of silence I raised my head, and turned it to that side from whence those accents seemed to proceed. I beheld on the branch of a tree, two little birds who seemed to play together, and at some distance from them on the same tree, a third that gazed at them. I looked about to discover that sweet voice which no longer delighted my ears; they again began their charming melody, and I sought for them with still more eagerness. But it was not till after many fruitless efforts that I found my sweet birds; I fixed my eyes attentively on them, and I discovered it was from them that those ravishing sounds had proceeded; I viewed their bills, which

which by movements as swift as astonishing, meliorated those sounds which came from their throats; I saw their throats swell outwardly by pulsations the cadences which issued from them. Ah! if I could have climbed the tree to those lovely birds, or have prevailed on them to descend to me, how I would have caressed them! I placed myself before them, they did not perceive me; I made them a thousand signs of friendship; I sung to them my only song of, *Let him alone*, and they flew away. I was so afflicted, so astonished, that there did not remain to me a sufficient presence of mind to reflect on the wonderful faculty they possessed of traversing the air. — I employed myself wholly with what appeared to me more interesting, the regaining them; and I concluded with myself, that if I could have the good fortune to join them on a tree a little further,

further, where I saw them perch, I would sing to them in a lower voice, the softest tones, and endeavour to engage their attention.

C H A P. XXI.

I followed my birds by the border of a little wood, the extremity of which offered to my view a vast plain, covered with herbs, with the sweetest broom, and with white sand: it terminated at that moment with the most beautiful perspective in the world, THE SETTING SUN; I knew it again, though it appeared to me to have lost a great deal of its radiance. I darted myself towards it, thinking it was not at any great distance, because it touched the circumference of the horizon; I ran to over take it, and believe I should have forsaken my birds for it, if by the greatest good fortune I had not seen them fly towards the same side.—They flew!—and
not

not only flew near me, but continued their song.—How charming did this appear to me ! I began to think I was not quite so perfect a being, as I had imagined, and to believe there were other beings between the sun and me.

AFTER having walked for some time, and finding myself very much fatigued, I joined my birds, but not the sun. Perhaps, said I, it shuns my approach, or perhaps it does not see me, we are too far from each other ; I will rest me here, and possibly it will change its course and meet me.—Oh ! if it would pass by the place where my provisions are, how happy would it make me.—I was hungry, and saw nothing that I could eat except the broom : I tasted it, but it was too hard and bitter.

I laid

I laid me down at the foot of the tree where the birds were perched, and I turned to the side on which I could distinguish the sun, to see if it would return : it seemed to sink insensibly. This appearance disturbed me exceedingly ; How did I know but I was going to lose it for ever ? In making this melancholy reflection, I perceived that the objects around me grew visibly less distinct. I turned my head round——A thick vapour,——a dark mist arose from the eastern sea ; it already had darkened a part of the firmament, and seemed to extend towards the west, to hide it wholly from my sight. What ! said I, are there yet more nights ? Is there one for this immense expanse, as well as for that narrow cage in which I was confined ?

THE

THE tender accents of my birds, that would have rendered the doleful appearance of the night supportable, weakened by degrees, and soon ceased intirely ; I abandoned myself to the most extreme affliction ; the more charms the wonderful display of day had opened to my astonished view, the more frightful appeared the gloom of night. That I might be certain that I was not deceived, and that the sun had really descended into the water, I climbed a little tree ; (nature teaches many stratagems) by this I rubbed off a little of my skin, it was tender, because I had, like all children that are bred in towns, passed the early part of my life in a box ; but, I should have been in a more unhappy situation still, if like them I had been wrapped up in swaddling cloths and dress. As I mounted the tree, the light which was reflected from the setting sun appeared

to me less feeble; I therefore fancied that if I could reach the summit of a neighbouring rock, which was higher than this tree, I should be better able to see what had become of the sun; I hastened thither, and as I ascended the rock, owls, and other birds of darkness hovered over my head, uttering the most frightful screams. When I compared in my mind, those hideous screechings with the soft notes I had hastened to listen to with such alacrity, my terror and affliction increased, and was soon at its height: being arrived at the point of the rock, I beheld that the sun had intirely disappeared, and that the darkness began to extend itself even over that small part of the horizon, which had served hitherto to enlighten me. The firmament was very dark, though there was not any clouds; I saw no stars, at least I was too much agitated to observe any;

any; I returned to the foot of my tree, I wept bitterly, and threw myself on the earth, with my face turned towards the west. Sleep made my eyes heavy, but affliction and terror prevented my closing them; at length I fell asleep, but my slumbers were disturbed with a thousand inquietudes, by the most terrible dreams, which did not cease till the first appearance of the light.—How glorious was that appearance! My soul was awakened to joy by it, before my eyes were opened.

FIGURE TO YOURSELF, the transports of a slave who has just broke his chains in funder; a criminal who has obtained a reprieve, as he was mounting the scaffold; a KING who finds a friend, who hears the voice of truth, WHO GIVES THE BLESSINGS OF PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE; such was my happiness

happiness when I awaked : I could scarce support it ; but reflection calmed its effects, (her assistance may be depended upon when one is too happy) : I observed there was no appearance of the sun on that side on which I had seen it decline when I fell asleep : this disturbed me ; I looked round for it, and turned me to the east : after a little hesitation, I feared lest my eyes should be again wounded with a sight as afflicting to me as the darkness of the night had been. I beheld the glorious light, and was happy to find my apprehensions were ill founded.

C H A P. XXII.

THE pen of Homer, the pencil of Apelles, would but feebly have expressed the beautiful perspective, which the heaven and the earth presented *to me* in this moment; I say *to me*, for it was to me only, all the rest of mankind would have seen the same object, without discovering a thousandth part of its beauties. My soul was inexperienced and struck by every object with redoubled force. This situation is unknown to others, and cannot be explained to those who have not felt it.

FROM a blue cloud which extended over half the vast expanse, there issued a train of fire of a purple and azure colour;

colour ; this magnificent appearance was embellished still more by the sea, which reflected it again. My island, even in those parts that were most rugged and barren, looked smiling under so beautiful a sky. How I pity those men, who I hear are so unfortunate as never to have beheld its beauties ! I contemplated those glorious wonders for a long while, sometimes together, and sometimes separately. I forgot that I was hungry, and I should not have gone near my cage, if I had not been allured by the most beautiful sight in the world. The dawn brightened every moment with fresh lustre, it coloured the heavens : a thousand rays of light burst forth from that circle of purple and of fire, spread itself and formed a splendid covering, all over the celestial canopy. I beheld arise from the very bottom of the waves, by slow and majestic degrees, the body that emitted those

those rays ;——it was a globe of gold ;
—It was THE GLORIOUS SUN.—I
thought myself deceived, I turned my
head to that side where I had left it in
the evening. It may well be supposed
I did not find it there, and it cost me
much reasoning to explain this phenome-
non. I did not suspect the sun had passed
under me ; yet what could it have stayed
to do after it had enlightened me and
my birds ? But I will explain what ap-
peared to me the most probable : That
great darkness which extended itself last
night over the whole firmament, I sup-
posed to be the sea, who had sent to the
sun that she might cover it while it
should pass over me, to begin its
course again, lest its extraordinary bright-
ness might awake me. This system
was dictated by self-love, but self-love
could not make me forget that homage,

that gratitude, I owed this glorious orb, or rather to the Author of its being, towards whom it had began thus wonderfully to conduct me.

C H A P. XXIII.

AS I advanced towards the sun, these exalted ideas, and many others, revolved confusedly in my mind. Who am I? From whence do I come? What is the sun, heaven, earth, these birds, plants, trees? How have all these things been made? How was I myself made? for doubtless I was made. I was once so little, that the most I could do was to reach the provisions that were put into my turning-box, and at present my head reaches to the upper part of it. I shall grow perhaps, till I am as tall as those trees, and as large as those rocks, whose superior size and strength is perhaps owing to their being so much older than me. But have I ever been as little as

those herbs? which perhaps may grow to the height of the trees. What was I before that time? What will become of us, these herbs, rocks, trees, and myself? Shall we grow till we reach the heavens? Shall the sun pass through my fingers, between the branches of the herbs and trees? and small as it is, shall it be obliged to turn aside from the rocks, because it cannot make its way through them, nor get sufficient room to pass between them and heaven? If the sun should also grow larger, it will be still a greater embarrassment. Can heaven that covers all this grow?— I saw how greatly this sublime inquiry was beyond my understanding, and I prudently abandoned it.

NEITHER the sea, nor the pond out of which I drank, entered into my mind, when I perplexed myself. I easily imagined

gined that the water being unconnected particles, and a fluid, inclined always towards the bottom, consequently could not grow but in depth; but I believed the depth infinite, because I saw no means of setting bounds to it: (I saw at the height above me, that heaven set bounds to all things) so that I was not embarrassed how the water should grow.

ALL these inquiries, as I have already owned, were too exalted for my capacity; as well as for many others of greater experience: but I took delight in those searches, as far as my uninstru^{ct}ed reason was capable.—I imagined, that I thought and reasoned better, and with more facility than usual. Did this arise from the pleasure I received at seeing that glorious spectacle the Aurora, a new day? Or was it be-

cause I was fasting? I thought this last idea very ridiculous. What connection can there be between the stomach and the mind? I have since too sensibly felt that there is a near one, notwithstanding the prodigious difference between a material, and a thinking being; and I have learned to humble myself.

I arrived near my cage: being very hungry, I eat heartily. When I was well refreshed, I found myself as happy as I was powerful, which is saying a great deal; for in my own eyes, if I was not the first being next to the sun, I was at least the second. I began even to entertain doubts whether I ought to give way to the birds; and I was persuaded very soon after, that I ought not to give up the point to them.

C H A P. XXIV.

TWO sensations of my soul still continued unknown to me, those of smelling and touch. The first was on the point of unveiling, and augmenting the just admiration I had for myself.

BEING entered into a little wood near my cage, I breathed the morning sweets as they may properly be called, the delicious odour of awaking nature, that ravishing smell which is only to be met in woods; that pure fragrance, so much the reverse of what is exhaled in cities and their suburbs. To this odour was added a smiling verdure, on which nature had profusely shed her treasures,

which are of more intrinsic value than pearls or diamonds.

BIRDS, the happy inhabitants of this retreat, sung to express their felicity, their delight, and to celebrate the joyful return of the sun. I gave myself up to all those charming sensations at once: I was overwhelmed with pure, though voluptuous pleasures, a voluptuousness that has nothing either tumultuous or insipid in it; a voluptuousness that is the reward of virtue, and the life of the soul. I could not suppose there was any happiness superior to what I then felt; yet mine was augmented by a still more agreeable odour, than that which had at first struck my senses; it was not sufficient to breathe this perfume, I greedily sucked it in with my breath, and ran towards the place from whence this fragrance came. I advanced, and behind
some

some boughs I perceived a large verdant lawn, covered with a brilliant dew. I could discern through the grass, the ground covered with beautiful deep and delicate blue flowers; among them arose large leaves of a graceful form, the stalks slender and delicate, on which were hung small grains, resembling the finest alabaster. I cast myself on the ground, the better to enjoy those luxuriant sweets. I bathed in the dew among violets and lillies of the valley; my transports were such, as it is not easy to find words in any language to describe. It was the most refined, the most delicate luxury; my heart was intoxicated with the delicious joy it received through my senses; I extended myself on the grass, I enjoyed my fifth sense.—Ah, Julia! how I injure thee; no, I was a stranger to this sensation, till the moment I received the first kiss from thy lips.

C H A P. XXV.

AT some distance from me, I observed two doves among the flowers, bathing in the dew ; they caressed, they billed and flapped their wings together. I felt disquietude at their fondness ; and something whispered me, that I had not yet seen all that was made for me : this led me to make a bitter reflection.—These doves are paired ; the fly which had been with me some time in prison, doubtless had lived with other flies ; for I see many here. My slaves that I saw run toward the sea were many ; the birds which I have heard sing are many ; the little fishes and shell-fish which I brought from the sea are also many : these plants, these flowers, those trees,

trees, though they do not talk, nor carefs, because it is not neceffary to their happinefs, yet they have at leaft the pleafure of feeing each other, and of being together. But I am alone : alas ! is it poffible to be happy alone ? O ! if another creature like me was to fhare my happinefs, I feel that it would be doubled. But fince it can be doubled, I am only half happy, for nature defigned that all fhould be perfect.——Where then fhall I find this other felf, that fhould be fo dear to me ? I afk but one.——That one fhould fuffice.——Whoe'er thou art that has placed me here, why haft thou left me alone ? Wilt thou always have the cruelty to leave me thus ? I could be fo happy.——Must I then continue to lead this languifhing life ?——But if life fhould have an end !——There my ideas were confounded ; I felt as it were a thick cloud arife and cover

my soul. My countenance was distracted, I was overwhelmed with sadness : at last I slept, and a delightful dream comforted me for the sorrows which these reflections had created.

I fancied myself on the same green where I then slept ; I heard a noise in a thicket, I hastened thither, I saw the leaves and branches stir ; I retired with fear ; I advanced again.—What a sight ! (though it is near thirty years since I saw it, and saw it then only in a dream, I still retain in my mind a most lively impression of it). I saw a being, ——a divinity !——It nearly resembled me ; it was a little taller, but much more beautiful than me ; the shape of its limbs were rounder and more graceful than mine, its muscles were not near so strong, its skin was much whiter than mine. I drew near, it smiled with inexpressible charms ;

charms ; how clear and like vermillion were its lips ! how even and white were its teeth ! What lustre beamed from its eyes ! how tender ! how ardent they looked ! Upon its lips I impressed a kiss, filled with that divine fire which its eyes had kindled in my heart. I embraced it and took it by the hand : I feared it might escape from me ; it removed my terrors by the air of content and confidence with which it followed me. I led it to the same lawn, and to the same place, from whence I had heard the rustling in the thicket which held it. My looks, my caresses, expressed a thousand things, to which it made a suitable return ; I felt quick and tumultuous desires ; I thought I saw the object of them, but my heart, which was yet but half opened, did not feel from whence those desires sprung ; it believed itself struck like my body by the heat of the sun.

fun. I pressed the hand of my charming companion, I fell on its breast, I awoke, and sprung up; but when I opened my eyes, I found that I was alone.

AT thus unfortunately awaking, I wept much, was overwhelmed with sorrow, and I sighed; till then in crying I had only sobbed, I sighed that day; how often since have I sighed for the same object! My sighs proceeded from grief before I had found her, but since I have possessed her, I sigh from tenderness and joy.

C H A P. XXVI.

MY tears, mingled with bitterness and despair, assuaged by degrees. Birds, as it were to comfort me, came and sung nigh me. I raised my eyes languishingly toward them; I shewed them with my hand and head the place that appeared to me to possess that object which had made me weep. My anguish was so lively, and so great, I thought all around me ought to partake of it; this infused into my soul the first sensation of comfort, which was soon heightened by the following reflection.

ALL the dreams, said I, which I have hitherto had, either bring to my mind that which has happened to me, or

warn me of that which is to come ; the first, alas ! is nothing less than a picture of a past event, this therefore must be that of a future. May the effect be as sudden, and the resemblance as exact as that of my other dreams ! O how delicious would it be ! That more powerful being than me, who made me, who has fixed in my soul this quick and warm desire, doubtless will bring hither the object which it has shewn me. It would be unjust, it would be cruel, if it should fail.—No, no, it will not fail, it cannot, after having bestowed such benefits on me, be either cruel or unjust.—Ah ! what is this being ? where is it ?——I stopt there, I dare not have gone further in my enquiry, I feared I should lose myself.—Thus love brought me to my God ; for love, in a pure and innocent heart, kindles a flame truly celestial.

C H A P. XXVII. .

TO perpetuate in my memory the charming dream which I had had, I conceived a design to bring a middle-sized stone which I saw at some distance, and fix it on the spot where I had felt such alternate sensations of joy and grief. As I went to bring it I saw a fountain, I drank, and congratulated myself on this discovery. From thence I went to my stone, raised it up, and came to place it on the spot which the object of my wishes seemed to me to inhabit; I resolved to visit it every morning, to make it weep by sprinkling it with my tears, and sighing heavily as I embraced it, &c. I never neglected this duty.

As

As I rolled my stone to its destination, I perceived, above the green and immoveable branches of some shrubs, two branchy boughs dispoiled of leaves, but these branches were in motion. It did not stop me, I continued to roll my stone; my mind was fully employed about the monument that I was going to raise. However, when I had done, after having kissed it (the only seal I had to put on this great work) and crowned it with a wreath of the sweetest flowers, I went to the place where I had seen those wonderful branches. I saw them come towards me; I stood still: how great was my surprize at seeing the stock from whence they sprung; it was the head of a stag; he came to brouse in this verdant field, where I had just paid homage to the god of love. He advanced as far as the monument of dreams; (for so I afterwards called it) I within pistol shot of him.

him. We looked at each other with equal surprize; we examined each other closely: each endeavoured to be assured whether to regard the other as a friend or an enemy. It would have been easier for each to have returned to the place from whence we came: but nature teaches us, that when dangers are doubtful, we ought to meet them intrepidly at first, in order to know whether henceforward we ought to fly or meet their approach.

I had however felt a little dread, on seeing the stag come towards me; but his noble and open mien, dispelled it. I had a peculiar pleasure in admiring this fine animal, observing the beautiful proportion of its limbs, comparing them with mine, and to find something yet more perfect in him. His manner of eating diverted me. I resolved to imitate

tate him, I let myself fall on my hands, and began to brouse ; but the grass appearing to me harsh and ill tasted, I determined to try the flowers. As I then had very little knowlege, I was greatly surprised to find that with so sweet an odour, they tasted strong and bitter. I began to see that one must not always judge from appearances, even among the productions of nature ; this afflicted me ; I rose up hastily, the stag ran away ; in vain I strove to overtake him, I instantly lost sight of him.

My dog had never left me ; he strove to make my solitude less doleful, by his close adherence to me ; I was greatly pleased with him, but he could not fill up the space in my soul, because in him I saw no likeness to myself.—He made me uneasy from the time the stag went off, for willing to entertain me with the pleasures

pleasures of the chase, he pursued the stag barking as loud as he could, and I feared I should never see either again. I was very hungry, I went to eat, and after dinner returned, not to chase the stag, but to pay him a friendly visit, and to ask him what drove him away.

C H A P. XXVIII.

WHILST I marched towards my cage, I looked at the sun, always with new admiration. I saw it pursued the same course it had done the day before, and was confirmed in my opinion, that its destination and only care was to run round my island. This augmented my gratitude and love for it. These sentiments were deeply engraved in my heart, and were accompanied with a most sincere respect; but I did not think it incumbent on me to extend this respect to the shadow, which the sun made by the darkness of my body, and those of other things. I became familiar with my shadow, and played with it; and when I happened to have the sun at my

my back or on one side, I followed the shadow, threatened it with my stick, and played tricks with it. When it appeared behind me, I encouraged it to follow me, and shewed it by signs, that I was pleased with its exactness.

It was on one side of me, as I went from my monument to my cage; but I did not speak to it, in any of those little jaunts: I was too deeply engaged with the sun, the stag, my dream, and eating. It was now afternoon; for my shadow, which had appeared in the morning to the right of me, that is towards the western sea, was now on my return on the right, and consequently towards the east.

C H A P. XXIX.

WHEN I came near my cage, I found the provisions in the basket in the same state I left them, but those under the tree were disturbed and diminished. But what being could have dared to touch what was destined for my use? I did not think such an attempt probable, nor even possible; without being anxious about it, I hastily took up a morsel of the meat.

THOUGH they had put the baskets in the shade of some trees (or rather had hung them on the lower branches, so that I might take them, yet my dog could not reach them;) the sun, that had passed twice over them since my arrival, began

began to damage some pieces of the fresh meat they had left for me. I was disgusted with the bad smell of the bit which I took; I threw it away, not daring to eat it, and I cried. My bread also became very dry, which irritated me much. I remarked in the morning, that as the heat of the sun increased, the dew disappeared from off the flowers, and I began to suspect that it was the sun had drank up the moisture. I suspected also that it had dried up my bread, and from that time I strove to hide it from its power.

A small hollow cave in the little hill, at the bottom of which I had been to drink and to bathe, seemed to me a proper place to receive the precious deposit of my provisions. After I had turned every thing out of the baskets, to try if all the meat was spoiled, and all the

bread dry, I resolved to carry them to this place. But I had another trial to make, no less interesting than the rest, which was to see if my plants and my roots were not spoiled, as well as my other provisions: I ran trembling to them, and found that they were only a little withered, without any bad smell. I eat of them, and found them full as good as they were the day before, excepting only that they were a little tough. To compare them to something (for comparison is the first method nature takes to instruct), I went and gathered other roots like them, which I pulled up without any difficulty, as they grew in a light sandy soil. I found them fresher, more tender and delicate. I had already discovered, that the sun by its heat diffuses life and fruitfulness to the bosom of the earth. I then judged that if it gave nourishing juices to the plants

5 while

while in the earth, it dried them by extracting those juices, as soon as they are brought above ground. Content with these observations, which certainly were made in a more perplexed manner than I relate them, I then compared the gathered fruit with those on the trees, and found nearly the same difference as was between the plants. How could I account for this? Fruits that were still on the tree, were more exposed to the heat of the sun, than those that were pulled, yet the first are neither parched nor withered, and the others are very much so. This was beyond my comprehension to explain. I should have conjectured that the trees being continually in the earth, extracted juices which it brought to the branches, and from them to the fruit; but by what instrument, or by what passage is it conveyed? All this was far from being satisfactory, and as a

Man of Nature I generally preferred ignorance to conjecture or hypothesis. Yet I have sometimes formed conjectures and hypotheses, as may be observed, because all men (even men of nature) are sometimes incoherent.

C H A P. XXX.

THE day before, (that is the day of my arrival) I had remarked and admired my little fishes and shell-fish. I saw the latter walk or crawl, some forward, others backwards, or on one side; and without understanding why they did so, I amused myself very much with observing them. The fish only fluttered about; this to me was a new and very agreeable sport: their shape, their shining attire, their lively air, their eyes, all together had something astonishing and delightful; but I thought they were to be pitied that they could not walk like the crabs. It appeared that the (to me) *unknown* great Being, whose hands had formed them, had not made an equitable division of his

gifts to those two kinds of animals. I did not know that he had destined the fish to live only in the water, and that while they continue in that element, they enjoy all the liberty and happiness of which they are susceptible.

ENGAGED by great and sublime objects, busied in admiring the earth, the sea, and the firmament, I had not the presence of mind, or coldness of disposition necessary to reflect upon the fishes, and shell-fish. I came back to them the second day after I had put my provisions into the little cave. I found the shell-fish dispersed out of the basket; but all taking the same road, some moving quick, some slow, endeavouring to get to the sea, from whence I had brought them. The fishes only, were inactive and motionless at the bottom of the basket in which I had put them.

Their

Their sad and melancholy looks gave me pain ; I looked cloſer at them, but the fætid ſmell which they exhaled diſgusted me ; their eyes were open, or I ſhould have believed them aſleep. My eyes, ſaid I, open immediately when I awake : therefore they muſt be ſhut when I ſleep, and I judge of all things by myſelf : but their eyes though open are immoveable and dull : theſe little animals then are neither aſleep nor awake. Though I did not know what ſtate they were in, it appeared frightful. I took one of them in my hand, I ſtirred it, ſhook it, turned it on all ſides, then put it gently into the baſket again for fear of wounding it, and went in ſearch of my dog, and the ſtag I had accidentally ſeen.

C H A P. XXXI.

HAVING dined heartily, nothing now interrupted my little journey ; but to be able to make a long stay, and go to the extremity of my island, where I thought to join the setting sun, if it should take the same course as it had done the day before, I made a bundle of roots, which I tied with the garters that had served to draw my shirts along.

I set out naked, carrying the roots under my arm, so that having neither business to perplex me, nor necessities to satisfy, if I was not the happiest man in the world, I was at least the richest. How seldom do men in the world find themselves

themselves in this situation! With the riches I then possessed, I only wanted a wife and children, to make me completely happy.

AFTER passing through the field of my delightful dream, having kissed my monument, sighed, and decorated it with fresh flowers, I came close to the stream which the stone made me discover; I drank out of it, and left one of my vessels there till I should want it. In short, I was on the spot where I had lost sight of the stag; I sought eagerly for him, but could not find either him or my dog; and for fear the sun should arrive before me at the extremity of the island, I hastened thither as soon as I could, as I saw it began to descend: I travelled long, and at length reached the sea.

I found the ocean as vast and as infinite at the west, as at the east (it had appeared so to me before, when I viewed it from the top of the rock.) The sun bounded this new horizon, and I lost all hope of arriving at the place where it was. This vexation was augmented by one yet more painful. Truth was dearer to my soul than the sun was to my eyes; and I found myself every moment in some new error: when I viewed my cage at a distance, it seemed as small as my basket did when near it, and my basket appeared at the same distance, as small as one of the least of the birds of the air. I remarked the same with regard to trees, rocks, and mountains. The western ocean, from the place whence I viewed it, seemed only a narrow piece of water that bounded my island, and that was itself bounded by heaven: I saw, as I approached, this supposed narrow
piece

piece of water, and was astonished to find, how much I was mistaken with respect to its extent.

WHEN my cage and the other objects appeared less to me at a distance than near, I attributed this phenomenon to something that might have got into my eyes, and I rubbed them with the back of my hand, thinking to see clearer; but this remedy not operating, I was not tempted to search into the mystery, I found it impenetrable; it appeared still more so on viewing the extent of the sea, which I took to be a pond of a moderate breadth. I murmured: this is always the result of ignorance. What is the use of the eyes, if they cannot make any certain discoveries; but represent things in two points of view, diametrically opposite, one of which must necessarily be false?—Some reflections made

me once more come at the knowledge of truth.

I am a perfect being, thought I : the construction of my organs is admirable ; each performs its function, and the strictest concord and harmony subsists among them, which constitutes my happiness. Is it possible to suppose that my eye, the finest, the most delicate amongst them, should be false ! No, it must doubtless be for my advantage that objects appear less according to the distance they are removed from me. And I believe the following to be the cause. If at the greatest distance things appeared the size they really are, I could see but five or six objects at a time ; they would fill up my whole sight ; and then I should see them only confusedly : it is surely better that my view extend freely, and that I can feast alternately on

all this immense, this great circle, which the heaven covers. Experience teaches me that the farther an object is from me, the less it will seem: well then, I will multiply the apparent size of the body, by the distance from whence I behold it, and I shall find the real size, and shall not be any more deceived.

I was so delighted to have reasoned thus, though in a more inaccurate manner than I have related, that in a transport of self-admiration, I cried out, *Let him alone.*——I began not to repeat so often, nor so freely, this word that seemed so agreeable: so true it is that the most lively pleasures cloy by custom, and that moderation in using them is the only means to prevent satiety.

THE sun declined; I saw it sinking into the water. I breathed ineffectual wishes

wishes to stop it, it plunged into the deep. The dark veil that arose out of the eastern sea, already covered a great part of the firmament, and the earth was enlightened only by a pale reflection of the twilight. I sought for some place of shelter, where I could pass a more peaceful night than the last ; I was cold, which created in me a kind of desire to be covered, at least with two or three shirts ; but I had not any, because always computing, always comparing, according to my method, which I thought praise-worthy, I had found the inconvenience of dress greater than any of its advantages. This determined me rather to pass my nights in some grotto, than submit to be habited. Fortunately, I met one, I went into it, and slept soundly, at least my sleep was not interrupted but by dreams, which were unavoidable in those first days of surprise and admiration.

I had

I had searched a long time for my dog;
 he came in about half an hour after;
 he made me a thousand fond caresses,
 to which I did not attend: I was then
 too busy with the sun, which I was going
 to lose once more!

CHAP. XXXII.

AS soon as I awoke, my first regards were towards heaven. — It was covered with clouds. No Aurora — no sun. — Nothing appeared on the horizon. I hastened to the eastern sea, from which I was near a league distant, but could not see the sun. I frequently turned my head to the west: perhaps the sun has stayed there; but I could not discover it: I abandoned myself to the most agonizing grief, I wept bitterly.

I had remarked that the shadow was the effect of the sun's presence; but as I did not always reason justly, nor consequentially, I should have wished that
if

if the sun was too much fatigued, and had stayed where I left it in the evening, that it would comfort me a little in its absence, and at least send me my shadow, this little being, the outlines of me, whose playfulness amused me.——It was needless to ask this feeble satisfaction, since it would not return, and by its presence give me new life. In vain I prostrated myself towards the west and towards the east, that I directed my mournful regards thither, that I lifted my supplicating hands thither: alas! all was ineffectual. I passed that whole day in the most frightful state of vacuity: I passed it without eating, without sleep. That day was to me truly a day of mourning. I sighed for the sun, as for that beautiful appearance, whom I had the felicity to behold only in a dream. The want of the sun reminded me of this delightful vision; my misery was inexpressible.

sible. But hope, the first resource of the unfortunate, supported me; I found a second in sleep, being quite exhausted with long and useless endeavours to find at least those two objects of my wishes that I had began to enjoy.

I slept little, I awoke several times, and each time I went out of my cave, but to no great distance, as the obscurity terrified me: at last I fell to the earth, overcome with weakness, anguish, and sleep.

— I slept some hours, and it was day when I awoke. This new day appeared still more gloomy than the last: the sky was more overcast; my tears flowed afresh: I went towards the west. This was the limits of my sad walks for two days; it was the tomb of my parent.

Lost in deep meditation, I walked heavily with downcast eyes, my head inclined.

inclined.—I felt some drops of water fall on me.—Alas ! thought I, heaven also weeps ! The sun doubtless is for ever lost ! What will become of me ? What will become of all these beings ?

THE rain encreased; it was lukewarm : I found it a most agreeable bath. The tears of heaven appeared sweet. The earth opened its bosom to receive them. It breathed round the wood a delicious odour, an odour of fruitfulness. I saw some flowers, that were yet closed up, hasten to unfold and assume more fresh and lively colours. A new scene compleatly calmed my grief, and spread over my soul that serenity, of which one moment's enjoyment makes us more happy, than an age of boisterous pleasures. Two turtle doves that I had already seen, came and renewed their delightful sporting. The whole scene
charmed

charmed me, and allowed my mind to enjoy it freely, as I began to hope I should again see the sun. The clouds broke towards the west, and the rain ceased. I continued to look at my doves playing: I had a confused idea of the motive, and I was jealous. Alas! thought I, these birds kiss, they constitute each others happiness, they are two, and I am alone!

THIS reflection, which I had often before made, was going to plunge me again into heaviness, when on a sudden the sun broke through a cloud; it shone in my eyes, and made its way on to my heart. I cried out with astonishment and joy, I skipped, I danced, and sung with all my might, and with as great pleasure as the first time I had seen it. My doves flew away, I pursued them as if I could have hoped to catch them on the wing.

I played

I played fifty other frolicks, which were quite natural, as I judged by those which my dog played after he had found me, when he returned from hunting the stag. Expressions of joy should be the same in men as in animals, at least in a man that is not corrupted.

HAVING recovered from this agreeable surprise, I again began my philosophical reasonings. I observed the sun was in the same point of the heavens, that it arose from the eastern sea, as it had done the two preceding days. I did not doubt but that it did rise there, and that it always proceeded behind this gloomy veil till it found a weak part from which it broke through, and made its way to enlighten my island uninterruptedly.

C H A P. XXXIII.

I Was a little distance from the Monument of Dreams, I had been to pay the soft though sorrowful tribute which I had imposed on myself, when I met my stag; I was delighted. We began to know each other, and not to fear. He returned quietly into the wood. He took a path that did not lead to my cage, but was not a great way from it; it led to the little cave where I had lodged my provisions. I perceived him, and followed: he followed another animal that resembled him, but it had no horns, and its body was much larger.

I fancied by the contented air of the stag, that this must be his companion.

Sun,

Sun, cried I, they are two; shall I be yet a long time alone? I had not walked a quarter of a league on a parallel line with that which led from my cage to the little hill, when I saw them go up the hill, and descend to the stream where I had drank the first day.

As I entered my eating hall, in my little cave which was hollowed under the hill, I was struck with the bad smell of some pieces of meat, which I thought the day before would have kept some time longer.

I threw it all out without distinction, even the bread; because a part of it was too dry, and the rest was mouldy. I left nothing in my baskets, but the salted meat and some biscuits. They had accustomed me in the ship to these two disagreeable

disagreeable kinds of food, of which the first is unwholesome.

WHILST I was regulating my kitchen, and making a hearty meal of biscuit, salt meat, and roots, I saw my stag and the hind pass close by me, and return the same road by which they came; which made me believe they lived somewhere in the neighbourhood of the Meadow of Dreams. I was afraid that my dog would chace them again; he seemed inclined, but I held him by the ear, and said in a firm tone of voice, *Let him alone*; he understood me perfectly, and staid contentedly near me.

C. H A P. XXXIV.

MY dinner being ended, I went to see if my fish were still in the same inactive, ruinous state in which I had left them. I had placed them at some distance from my little cave. The disagreeable smell that exhaled from the basket, informed me that the evil was increased. I saw the fish, which were livid, disfigured, and breaking into small pieces. Putrefaction seemed to me to be something horrible. I looked closer at them; I perceived in their little bodies already above a million of small worms. Ah! said I, that which appeared to me this moment so terrible, is now an object worthy my admiration. Nothing perishes, nothing ceases to exist: either

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H

those

those little moving points organised, will become fish again, or at least these fish will all be converted into such small beings as these. All that ever was impregnated with the spirit of life, still subsists then, and only changes the form. I had another proof of this system to-day before my eyes: the fruitful tears of heaven which were shed this morning on my island, entered the earth as they fell: they even penetrated the leaves, the fruits, and the flowers, though they seemed only to run over them: but I saw them grow, unfold, and beautify, since the precious tears fell; the tears then have changed their form, they are become leaves, fruits, flowers.—This reasoning brought me to make other reflections on the herbs, and on the roots which I had drawn out of the earth; I endeavoured to discover what was to be the destination of their fibres, branched
out

out to infinity.—All these observations began to make me perceive that the heat of the sun, and the moisture (which may justly be called the radical heat of nature,) are the principles which, joined to the violent heat and moisture of nature, that is to say, fermentation, is the cause of generation in animated bodies.

THIS degree of knowledge, it will be said, is too extensive for a man who has never received instruction from others. This is an error; nature willingly unfolds her bosom to him who, plain and simple like herself, pursues her, and her alone.

C H A P. XXXV.

TO form a system, it is not necessary to know what system is: imagination naturally leads to it. But a savage like me cannot make any that are either deep or dangerous. About the time I have been speaking of, I made one which I shall never forget. I slept one evening with my head inclined on my breast; when I awoke, it was all covered with the vapour that had exhaled from my mouth. The resemblance between this vapour and the dew, struck me. I considered all my island as a great body, the soul of which as I have since learned, is called nature: I persuaded myself to think this body had a head and mouth: I took its head to be a great rock in the western

western ocean, and it was very likely that the caves and rocks in which nature slept, spread the dew which I saw on the face of the earth, and that the sun having collected this dew, brought it back to nature to disseminate again. I could not yet conceive, how the other dew that had gone from my mouth should return; this I confess embarrassed me, but I chose rather to believe the sun brought it back to me, than to give up my system.

C H A P. XXXVI.

I Cannot distinctly recollect in succession any other than the first year of my arrival in the island. As the objects multiplied to my eyes, they were confounded in my imagination, and consequently in my memory. Besides, it would be a useless task to follow chronologically my discoveries and ideas, in the same order in which they were made. For instance, to know the particular day, on which after my new existence, my enlargement from my cage, I had heard thunder for the first time; but it is proper to know, whether it was before or after I had heard thunder, that I heard the cannon: whether it was before or after I had seen a hind big with fawn, that I had
seen

seen this same hind or another nursing its young one : whether it was before or after having seen corrupted carcases, I saw an animal die : and I shall be careful that nothing shall interrupt the order of these, because this order having been useful in methodizing my ideas, it is only by following my narration, that I can shew how these objects created in me those ideas, how they were produced, and if I may be allowed the expression, how they engendered each other.

I can easily recollect this succession of ideas ; but it is as useless as it is impossible to specify the very day on which I first saw every object. I do not write a journal of travels. *But how else am I to proceed ?*

I had been some time in my island, which I found so agreeable and charm-

ing, without having even made any comparison between that and my cage ; I had already acquired, as objects presented themselves to my view, all the natural lights that could be gained by reflection alone, and these lights are sufficient for happiness ; the more we acquire of any other, the farther we are removed from instinct, to which nature has entrusted the charge of conducting us to happiness.

AT some distance from my monument, I had already discovered a large cavern, which at first frightened me ; but to which I at length accustomed myself to retire at night ; I say at night : for during the day that I could enjoy my existence, the sublime idea that I had of myself, made me disdain all other limits, but those of earth and heaven, and I cannot yet conceive, how men of improved

proved understandings, who are called wise, can think themselves happy in houses, or more properly speaking, tombs, that are more or less elegant, in which they pass three fourths of the few days they have to live. I have already made some remarks on the cause of vegetation; I had observed, I had followed the insects that were created out of the decayed fishes. The bad smell which I had to sustain, when I came to visit this repository of nature, in which she made those wonderful transformations, was amply rewarded by the pleasure I received in seeing her operations before my eyes. If I was the *Plato* or the *Montesquieu* of my island, I was also to be esteemed the *Aristides*, the *Swammerdam*.

THESE little worms which I saw proceed from my dissolved fishes, make

themselves little cages ; some time after they come out provided with wings, and take their flight in the air : so that, said I, the fishes become birds doubtless, that fly beyond my reach, that fly up into heaven, and *become there* something else in their turn.

ONE day as I was walking, I made some reflections on the wonders that surrounded me on all sides : I saw a squirrel stretched near a tree. I had already seen some of them run, and play together ; I took them for little stags, who instead of having horns and no tails, had great tails and no horns ; I also looked upon the flying insects to be little birds without feathers. I approached the squirrel softly, and believed it to be asleep (yet thought it an odd hour to sleep, it being nine or ten o'clock in the morning) : I saw that its eyes were open. Ah !
thought

thought I, it is also like my fish, it does neither sleep nor wake. Is it going to corrupt and dissolve like them? I took it in my hands, it stirred, I was afraid and let it fall. It tumbled about still a little, it rolled its eyes in such a manner as inspired me with pity and horror. I went on my knees to observe it; it stretched itself out with violence, and cast so tender and expressive a look on me, that I shed tears! It shut its eyes, and I observed the pulsations of its heart, which in these last moments were very violent and intermitting, cease. This spectacle of weakness and inaction overwhelmed me with sorrow. I looked at the squirrel and wept. I said in my interior language; alas! it no longer sees me, it no longer moves! Is it going to be annihilated or to putrify? my heart continues to beat regularly, but his is stopt for ever. I took the dear little

animal again in my hand, and kissed it; for I saw it could not hurt me : I caressed it, and strove to bring it back to life ; but life was fled ; the fire of its heart was extinguished.

C H A P. XXXVII.

NIGHT was fallen: I carried the inanimate body sadly to my cavern; the next morning at sun rise, I found its eye balls dull, all its limbs cold and motionless: I tried in vain to warm them in my bosom, I saw clearly that it was to undergo the same change as my fish had done; and by a reflection which this same idea must necessarily have produced, I began to suspect that notwithstanding the superiority and nobleness of my origin, which I heightened to myself in proportion as it was unknown to me, that this would also be my destiny; but I easily found an argument to comfort me.—Instead of being one animal, I shall be a million: my
life

life instead of being lost will be multiplied. The alternatives of life and death through which I shall pass, will be like those of day and night. Besides, if death be an evil, and if that evil be necessary and inevitable, I must prepare to receive it. The best means of quitting life without regret, is to have amply enjoyed nature and ones-self.— I then proposed to give myself over to those two pleasures with fresh ardour. To me this was a sufficient paliative against the terrors of death. But with how much more firmness have I expected it since I have had the happiness of knowing thee, O my God ! since I have had the happiness of hoping, that while the elements of my body shall pass away to organise insects, and other material beings, my soul, of which thou art the center, shall ascend, and be united to thee for ever !

C H A P. XXXVIII.

IT happened one night, that I could not go to sleep as soon as usual, because I had not exercised as much as I had been accustomed to, and I had been more thoughtful.

I went out of my cavern to breathe the fresh air, till I should find an inclination to sleep. I regarded the firmament; and I perceived the planet Venus; but what it was, or what was to become of it, disturbed me greatly to discover. The weather was calm and serene: (summer was drawing near) I diverted myself with observing this star; immediately after I saw a second, a third, and many more, and in a short time the heavens were insensibly

bly covered with them. This scene was too wonderful not to enchant all my senses, and suspend my desires to sleep. But its first effects had not been to charm me: on the contrary, it affrighted me. As the darkness increased, and consequently more stars appeared, I trembled. When they all displayed their lustre, I believed there was going to be a new order of things, that I should never have any other than the feeble light which the stars emitted, that the sun being divided into a multitude of small parts, occupied at the same time all the points of heaven, where it before had appeared as one great being. The moon luckily broke forth, to bring a ray of hope to my heart; this planet had just began its revolution; I flattered myself I should see it grow larger every moment till next morning, that it was going to collect all

all the stars within its circumference, and by that means become a new sun.

I had walked about musing for some time, and had not looked at the crescent; and turning hastily about, I could not see it; I suspected it had descended behind a great rock at a little distance from me, and ran hastily to find if it was there; a tree happened to be in my way, and as my mind was deeply engaged with far greater objects than any on earth, I did not observe this obstruction till I received a blow on the head. Not yet recovered from the pain which had stunned me, I tumbled into a deep trench where there was little water and plenty of mud. I cried out when I felt myself rolling down, and I should have believed myself killed, if the like accident had not happened to me in the day-time. All the injury I suffered from this new fall was,

was, that I razed the skin of one of my hands, for I thought nothing of the mud with which I was covered. This would have been a terrible misfortune to those men, who attending to trifles, meet misfortunes always on their way; but what has a man to dread from mud, who bathes himself with as much facility as other men wash their hands.

C H A P. XXXIX.

CONTINUING to walk, but with a little more circumspection, towards the rock, behind which I hoped to find the moon, I put my hand to my forehead, and felt a lump. I believed that a bit of the tree had got into it, and that my skin opening to receive it, had closed immediately. This uneasiness could not be removed, till the light of the day reflected in my crystal fountain: therefore I deferred making any further inquiry about it, as the evil was unavoidable, and I hastened to the rock: it was the largest I had ever seen before or since; its appearance terrified me. The darkness augmented my fears; however I had the courage to go quite round this

this enormous mass, and not being able to see the crescent, I supposed it had divided again into stars. Full of this afflicting idea, I was returning to my grotto: when at a few paces from me, I saw a hollow in the great rock; I went into it, and resolved to pass the remainder of the night in it. Not being used to see so thick a veil as then covered all nature, a panick seized me; it greatly increased the moment I set my foot on the entrance of the cavern; I said with a hollow broken voice, *Let him alone*. Instantly many voices, yet more doleful than mine was, reverberated almost together, *Let him alone*. If I had had any education, and known what spirits, sorcerers, or even robbers were, I should have fallen into a swoon; but without doubt I should then also not have been unacquainted with echo, and perhaps that might have encouraged me.

I came

I came back to my own habitation much frightened: without enquiring into the cause of this new phenomenon, I was very unwilling to leave the rock.

I should have done much better to have returned the next morning, and sought from whence those voices which I had heard proceeded; but a man in solitude is timid. I cast myself on the ground and endeavoured to sleep, but my repose was much agitated.

it had a contrary effect, my forehead grew insensibly better, but the fruit spoiled. I then apprehended that my vengeance was greater than the injury I had received, and consequently that it was unjust, and this feeling made me repent. These two experiments assisted to convince me of a truth which I have since experienced, that fruits plucked from the tree, and plants drawn from the earth, decay, because they are deprived of the sources of life.

IN less than an hour after, I employed the same stone with which I had beaten the tree and the fruit, to two other purposes. It had a very sharp edge, and with it I scarified a large fruit like a melon, without designing to give it pain, but merely to see what difference there was between the wound in my hand, and dividing the fibres of the fruit. My
hand

hand healed, even the place of the wound could not be seen; on the contrary, the scars in the melon grew deeper, they widened as the melon grew larger.

My forehead and hand were healed in a few days, but to pursue the progress of the cuts in the melon more time was requisite: while I was waiting the event of this experiment, I made a great many others, of which I shall only relate a few.

If I wrote for *Men of Nature*, I should have no dread of fatiguing them, by dwelling on all those little objects, because they would be dear to them; but the greater part of those for whom I write have the misfortune to esteem the particular accounts of nature, as trifles; they will not suffer themselves to be amused with them, because other trifles which they

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C H A P. XL.

WHEN I awoke, my head was so disturbed, my ideas so confused, that I could not distinguish my dreams from the events that gave rise to them. I put my hand to my forehead, and found that the stroke which I had received was not a dream. I looked at my hand, it was all over bruised, and the skin torn off. I had no doubt but I had been at the cavern, but the hollow voices that answered I might have heard in a dream, and I found not the least inclination to go and prove their reality. I had much more curiosity to find out what the tumour in my forehead was. I went therefore to the stream that was between my cave and the *field of dreams*.

When

When I arrived there, I looked into the water (even before I washed my mouth and drank): I saw on my forehead a round blue elevation: it appeared to me, to have disfigured me; I was offended at it. I retired angry, without drinking. The pain and uneasiness that I felt, excited in me emotions of revenge, which I executed without delay. I took a large stone, and went directly to my enemy, the tree (I had marked it among three others that were round it): I was persuaded that this stone was as much harder than the tree, as the tree surpassed me in the power of resistance, and that therefore it would do it as much hurt. I gave it two or three violent blows, which did not appear to have the effect I desired, they only numbed my hand; some of the fruit dropt off the tree; I took one and bruised it, to see if it would swell like my forehead; but
it

it had a contrary effect, my forehead grew insensibly better, but the fruit spoiled. I then apprehended that my vengeance was greater than the injury I had received, and consequently that it was unjust, and this feeling made me repent. These two experiments assisted to convince me of a truth which I have since experienced, that fruits plucked from the tree, and plants drawn from the earth, decay, because they are deprived of the sources of life.

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call business, engage their attention. My anger at the wound on my forehead, and the revenge I had taken, appeared very useless, when I attempted to examine the cause; it is true the tree had wounded me, but it was an involuntary fault; I should have avoided the tree, for it could not remove to make way for me.—And how did it receive those marks of my passion? By giving me some of its fruits in return. I felt my ingratitude, and wept; I tore my hair, to express my grief, and flew to the tree to express, in my way, my repentance.

AURORA began to dawn; its happy return restored me to my reason, and inspired me with humanity: is it possible, thought I, sighing, that I could be ungrateful and cruel! Ah! if I dared to be either, I should deserve, besides the dreadful reproaches of my conscience, that

that the sun, my benefactor and father, should punish me, with the most rigorous severity; I should deserve not to be enlightened by its glorious lustre. I saw it divided last night into a multitude of sparks; to-day it appears again in all its splendour; it was darkened lately by thick clouds, for a whole day; they fell the next day in a fruitful rain, and instantly it reappeared. It divides in the night into small lights, that it may not interrupt my sleep, and it hides itself from me sometimes in the day, but it is to make all around me more fertile. It neither appears nor disappears, but for my particular advantage, and to confer on me benefits, who have none to bestow in return; and instead of following this bright example, I strike, I bruise, an innocent tree that wounded me unintentionally, that voluntarily bends its branches

toward me, to offer me nourishment. —

In vain would ingratitude suggest to me, that it is the weight of its fruit only that makes its branches bend ; I am sensible of this ; but why should it carry so much fruit ? it cannot want them for its own use.

FILLED with the transporting pleasures of finding myself grateful, of seeing the sun again, of being enlightened with its radiance, and of walking in the morning dew (for this also was a real pleasure) I went to see my squirrel, which I had avoided for many days, lest I should find it in the same state with my fish. I drew near, it was still whole ; my heart swelled with hope : I wanted to be convinced, whether instead of being corrupted, and dissolved like the fish, it was not fallen into a profound sleep. I stirred it, I turned it ; my fingers sunk into its flesh
that

that was already livid; there exhaled from every part of its body a smell of death, which pierced my soul. This odour may please at the tables of the rich, and I dare not enquire into the cause; but it was afflicting, and a *Man of Nature* should have feelings.

I was just come from the melon to the squirrel, making, as I have said before, sad, but useless, reflections on my ingratitude; I had afterwards thought seriously, what was to be the consequence of the wounds I had made in the melon, of the bruises of the tree and fruit, the wounds of my hand and forehead, and the sleep of the squirrel. One may easily conceive, that all these things made me forget that I held a stone: I should have been longer unmindful of it, if I had not been shocked at the smell of the squirrel, which I let fall. The skin

burst open, and its bowels gushed out of its body. The desire of knowledge vanished at the sight of such a spectacle. My first disposition was to turn away and leave it, without murmuring against nature: (for every day I learned by new discoveries, that whenever I had accused her of error or injustice, my ignorance made me blaspheme.) The cry of my soul, was not at that instant the cry of rebellion or of anger, but that of bitterness and woe. I raised my hands towards heaven, humbly to ask if that was to be my destination, and why it was to be so.

I still held the stone in my hand; at last I observed it, and cast it from me without passion, but nevertheless with some force against another stone. The shock produced some sparks: this was sufficient to divert my sad ideas. I

I again.

I again tried an experiment so likely to interest me. It met with the same success, and I took so great pleasure in it, that I repeated it several times. At last some sparks fell on dry leaves; I saw them smoke and burn: I was seized with fear, respect, and admiration; I stared at it a long time with my eyes fixed: I conceived that this wonder was occasioned by the sparks I had struck out of the stones; but how was all this done, and what was to be the consequence? Should I regard this discovery as an evil, or as conducive to happiness? How perplexing were these reflections!

HOWEVER the leaves kindled, and I heaped them up, as I saw that they burned better when there was a large heap. I perceived also, they kindled

I 4.

better.

better on the side from whence the wind blew. From thence I concluded that blowing made the fire more violent. I drew near in order to blow it: I felt a soft heat that astonished me, and invited me to finish the work I had begun. I blew: a little blue sparkling flame touched my lips. At the same instant all took fire. Judge, if it is possible, how much I was terrified.—But it lasted only a moment; the sight of a fire that is not furious is more beautiful than terrible. I returned to that which I had made, with more speed, as I saw the flame had consumed the few leaves I had gathered, and was going to be extinguished, which I looked upon as a very great misfortune. I hurried to supply it with fresh fuel, that is to say, leaves; among them were some small twigs. I saw they burned as well

well as the leaves and much longer :
I tried to feed it with large boughs, and
I had flame, coals, and heat.

My island, and the small part of the
sea which I had in view, I thought to be
an infinite space. My island is not the
thousandth part of the terrestrial globe ;
the fixed stars exceed the earth in size
many millions of times ; and yet the
sparks of my fire seemed to me to be
designed to gather in the heavens, and
there form little planets of the same size
of the fixed stars.—Into what egregi-
ous errors do our senses lead us, when
they dare to contemplate things far
above our understanding !

By the same rule that ignorance de-
ceives us, it makes us bold and some-
times rash. I was not better acquainted

with the fire than with the stars ; I went to play with the cinders, they burned my hand. At the same time that I paid so dearly for my experience of the effects of fire, I learned also that a wound should be covered and kept from any accidents. An easy and plain reflection made me find this expedient.

I thought cold the best cure for heat. I went and steeped my hand in the next fountain : I kept it there a long time. I then wrapped it up in a large smooth and fresh leaf, nearly resembling the pores. I put such another on my forehead, and they eased me immediately.

It was not two hours since I had seen for the first time, fire, smoke, flame ; and my astonishment already ceased at seeing
all.

all these wonders united ; so true it is that one may be accustomed to all things with great facility, for which reason it is necessary, not to make too frequent use of miracles.

C H A P. XLI.

WHEN my admiration was at an end, and the pain of my burn subsided, my desire to reason returned, and took that seat in my soul which it was wont to occupy.

WHAT is fire? thought I: whence comes it? why does it consume the bodies on which it fastens? A philosopher would have been puzzled to answer those questions: but I was not. I might have asked another which a philosopher perhaps would think his province, and which possibly does not properly belong to any one in particular. How does fire operate upon bodies? But all these queries have ever appeared to me as inexplicable as
useless;

useless ; I did not follow them, but answered my first question, What is fire ?
——Fire——is a being that is very ravenous, that consumes other beings, nourishes itself on their destruction, and dies in destroying them. Whence comes it ? This question is easily answered, nothing more plain ; it proceeds from the sun, and it cannot exist by any other means.

THE sun, who passes every day in my island, and who spends half each night in the western, and the other half in the eastern sea, only to be prepared to run his course over my island ; the sun, who in a word only exists for my island, darts a ray of its fire into the flint, and without doubt into all other bodies, and apparently supports the heat that keeps me alive.

How-

HOWEVER just my argument may be, there is certainly fire in stones, and it is much like the fruit on the trees ; you must shake the branches to make them fall, and you must strike the stones against each other to extract the fire.

WHY does fire consume the bodies on which it fastens ? Because it comes from the sun, because it issues from another substance. The sun is a globe of very violent fire, that beholds me from afar, and all around me, and who keeps at such a distance from us, that it warms without burning us. Fire on the contrary is a sun greater or less, according as it is supplied with fuel, which sun being below, instead of above us, does not give either light or heat at a great distance, but enlightens and warms all that come near it.

WITHOUT

WITHOUT interrupting my learned enquiries, relative to the origin of fire, I went to seek wood to supply it. It were to be wished the profound speculators would take me in this for their model, and recollect, that to be worthy of reasoning on the vegetation of grain, they must first sow and reap it.

WHEN I had nothing more sublime to engage my thoughts, I observed how happy it was that I did not throw the stones one against the other, near the wood that was just at hand; for the first fire that I should have kindled, would instantly have been a conflagration: and what a conflagration! I tremble with fear and horror to think of it.—This wood extended from one extremity of my island to the other; but however great the loss of a forest would be to a man, who has experienced the charms of solitude.

tude and shade, it would be a trifling loss compared to the misfortune I had to apprehend. In the heart of the wood on the south side was hid the humble retreat, or rather the superb temple.— Here I could relate the most interesting part of my history, but the order of events oppose me, therefore I shall pass lightly over what precedes it; very little remains.

C H A P. XLII.

THE day was to me delicious, on which I first discovered the art of producing fire, that art of which he only feels the utility, and marvelous properties, who begins to enjoy it at fifteen, and who has made the discovery himself.

THE return of my dog, who had been away from me near an hour, at first gave me pleasure; I shewed him the new element that I had enjoyed: but as he had often seen a fire before he was with me, he was not surpris'd at it.—When I went to caress him, I perceived that his mouth was bloody (he had eat the squirrel): I pushed him away from me with

with indignation, without knowing why, but without being able to conquer the repugnance with which he inspired me. I led him to the next stream, and threw him into it; I afterwards brought him back to my fire, which I hastened to supply with wood. I was inventive and industrious; nature is the mother of industry, and necessity is the father. Besides the experiment of the fire's active heat, which I had made in such a manner as to impress it on my memory, I made some others, of which the most agreeable, and consequently the finest, was employing it to roast my roots. There was one stuck among the branches that I put on the fire; I saw water and smoke issue from it: I saw its rind turn black and shrivel without being inflamed like the branches. I drew it out with a little crooked stick. I was careful not to touch it the instant I took it out of the fire.

fire. All this was surmise; but I had sufficient reason to conceive that the effect ceasing, the cause must also cease; and that this root, by being kept away from the fire, must cool by degrees. I waited near a quarter of an hour, and I saw that it had ceased to smoke, I touched it gently: there only remained a moderate warmth. As I knew it to be of the same species as those I had been used to eat, I put it to my mouth and bit it; the inside was hotter than the rind; it burned my palate, and I let it fall, surprised both with its treachery, and the unhappy faculty, that for that moment was given to my palate of being as feeling as my hand. I pondered upon the taste that remained in my mouth, its bitterness, and the ashes which had got under my teeth; I felt that I should prefer the roots raw to those which were roasted. I perceived that my hands were
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soiled and clammy with the juice; a new motive for preferring the roots when raw. However I considered for a moment, and I observed that the roasted root was tenderer. I fancied there was blended with the bitter taste, a delicate juice which I had not hitherto met any where. I receded from the judgment I had precipitately made; consulted my palate and my tongue, they seemed to deliberate and be reconciled to it; finally they determined in favour of the roasted root. I took it up, broke it, and felt that it was cool; I tasted it a second time, and was clearly convinced that the peel only was bitter and full of ashes. I peeled it, and the rest of the root was an excellent repast. When I had seen the fire kindle, I cried out, *Let him alone*, with a transport which I never felt, but at the sight of great events: I repeated the same cry, when I had tasted the food which
the

the fire had seasoned so deliciously. I ran to bring some roots to roast, and some branches to lay on the fire. I returned, and found it weak and almost extinguished; I collected the cinders, and rekindled them; and filled with joy to see my domain augmented with an element, I skiped, I jumped, and sang with my whole heart.

AFTER having considered a little how I should best hinder my roots from burning, I discovered a very ingenious method, which was to put them under the ashes. I admired my works, and was very lavish in my own praise, having almost forgotten that I was indebted to chance for the discovery of the fire.

NIGHT came on; I had staid by the fire seven or eight hours at least, and to divert me I reasoned and gathered sticks
by

by turns. The days pass very swiftly in a desert island, with him whose mind is not sufficiently cultivated to know weariness and disgust, and especially if he is employed; for there, as well as elsewhere, labour is the only means to drive away lassitude and render us happy.

I gazed at my smoke, my flame, my cinders (one might justly say, all this was for my use); I also regarded the heap of ashes with which I covered my roots; I saw little Volcano's issue from it, which diverted me greatly; thus I learned the effect of the air, but I was ignorant of the cause. In contemplating all those things I fell asleep, and did not awake till sun-rise. My awaking was dismal, I saw not the least appearance of fire where I had left it the evening before; I stirred the ashes (one may be assured it was with a stick; I had not experienced,

experienced, like *Horace*, that the ashes were deceitful, but I suspected them).

At length I found some fire.——Figure to yourself a poet, a worshipper of his own productions, who has searched diligently an hour among his papers for one of his best pastorals, and at last spies it at his foot. My joy was unusually great; I had some sticks left, which I had collected in the evening to keep in my fire during the night: I arranged them, I kindled the fire: 'till then I had not time to think of my roots; I now remembered them, and I drew them from under the ashes; I raised the rind, which came off easily. They were tenderer, better baked, and of a more pleasing taste than those I had tried the day before. This to me was a new source of pleasure.——

UNFORTUNATE *Columbus*! sad victim
of thy own success: thou hast made, at
the

the peril of thy life, a discovery of false riches, the effects of which must be to overflow half the earth with the blood of its inhabitants, and circulate in the other half, with luxury and vice, a secret plague that poisons the softest and most innocent delights; how happy wouldst thou have been, if thou hadst never lived any where but in my island, and made no discoveries but such as engrossed my attention !

It is needless to tell with what care I continued to feed my fire, to remove the ashes when they incumbered it, to put on a large quantity of fuel every night, that there might be a fire when I awoke. I loved the baked roots, and I sometimes regaled myself with a broiled fish.

THE heat of the fire was grateful to me before the sun arose and after its setting

ting. Besides, fire appeared to me a very surprising thing. What motives could be more powerful than those, to a man who had not any thing to do but consult his pleasure, and whose ignorance of more astonishing matters, could not suffer him to suppose any thing trifling?

REFLECTING on the care I took to preserve my fire, as my own, I recollect an idea that I have had since I have been in society. An old man, of whom I shall shortly speak, instructed me: he related to me the most useful and most curious passages in history. He told me one day of the priestesses of the goddess *Vesta*, what their employment was, and that *Vesta* had only females in her train. “ Well, cried I, don’t you “ remember that I told you how I lived “ alone on this island, and that I kept

VOL. I. K “ up

“ up an eternal fire ? Oh ! yes ; surely
 “ I have been the priest of *Vesta* with-
 “ out knowing I had that honour ; per-
 “ haps I was more acceptable to her by
 “ my innocence, than by that eternal
 “ fire.”

C H A P. XLIII.

I Stayed near my fire for three or four days; at least I did not leave it for any space of time, nor go to any great distance from it. But being assured it would last more than eight hours without replenishing, as I had experienced the first night, I left it from time to time in the day, and sometimes from morning till evening.

I went often into the copse, where I had met, almost every day, the stag and the hind, whom I strove in vain to follow: they always escaped from me, yet seemed to be the same that I had first seen. The hind was much larger in the

course of a few weeks that I had observed her ; by watching her attentively, I at length came up with her in a more fortunate moment. She was stretched at the foot of a tree : her size was visibly decreased ; near her I discerned an animal, who appeared to be of the same species, but smaller.

I neither stirred or breathed : I shed some delicious tears, of which I felt the cause without being able to explain it to myself ; but my sentiments were not less pure, less lively ; reasoning and reflection could only have tended to weaken them. Ah ! how often does knowledge destroy the purest, dearest pleasures of the heart !

I gazed at the little fawn with inexpressible tenderness ; I fancied I beheld its soul open to the happiness of existence :

ence: it made efforts to move all its limbs by turns, and its heart panted with joy when it had learned the use of them. It extended its muscles, and at first rested on its knees; it made another effort, and arose; it put its feet to the ground with a timid and doubtful air, it shook its head lightly, it seemed to wish to try the new element, of which it was become an inhabitant; delighted with the success of its attempt, it traced a circle round its dam; it looked at her, and seemed to wish to console her for the agony which she had suffered; it thanked her for the inestimable gift she had bestowed; it lay down by her, it received from her the nourishment of life: she gently inclined her head towards it, she cast a look upon it filled with tenderness and affection; it is the fruit of her love; it is her second self. These were the re-

lections which nature taught my unenlightened mind.

I had passed two or three hours looking at, and admiring, the fawn and the hind. I then made some reflections on what I had seen. One animal, thought I, produces another: perhaps all that surrounds me has long existed in expectation of me: if that is the case, and if every animal thus produces its likeness, my island will soon be so filled, that there will not be any thing left for them to subsist upon, and when they have devoured every thing, I myself may die with hunger. But perhaps when an animal has made its likeness it ceases to live, and dissolves like my squirrel, like my little fishes. This last reflection, though it silenced my apprehensions, yet gave me pain. The idea of dissolution

tion is always melancholy, unless it is softened by the hope of surviving even to eternity. But I saw too clearly destruction was at hand to all around me: and had no other proof of my own immortality, than the desire which I felt to be immortal.

'Tis true, I had no certainty that I should become a prey to destruction like the other animals; and this ought to have made me regard their end with more tranquillity; but the same innate feeling, which promised me immortality, warned me that I must not hope, for the animal part of my being, a better fate than that of other creatures. These reflections were followed by many others, which some of my readers will easily supply, and which would weary those who are incapable of supplying them. I proposed to myself to observe, how

soon an animal would die, after having given life to its likeness. To be convinced of this, I went every day to visit the hind, and was each day more agreeably surprised, when I saw her employed in the tender office of suckling her fawn: for I never came to her retreat but with the expectation to find her dead. The experience I had repeated every day for a very long while, should have cured me at least of my fears; but I began to reason too deeply, not to make a bad use sometimes of my reason.

PERHAPS, said I, this poor hind will not die till her life is no longer necessary to her fawn? Doubtless she will then die; and I, perhaps, shall shortly bring forth another self: this self, whom I wish for with so much passion, and whom I should love so dearly, perhaps, I should scarce have begun to enjoy the happiness of beholding,

beholding, when I should close my eyes for ever.

I was quite certain that the hind would die soon after dropping the fawn ; I had still less proofs of my own supposed pregnancy ; an interior voice told me distinctly, that the being like me, whose society seemed so necessary to my happiness, should not be born of me, but that I should find one perfectly formed as the stag had found the hind.

CHAP. XLIV.

WEARIED with conjectures that could only render me more unhappy, since I must necessarily wait the event, to see, to realize, or to destroy them, I gave up the enquiry; and to divert me with something more agreeable, I resolved if possible to tame the fawn and the hind, and to live in society with them.

My dog was no impediment to this society; he neither chased the hind, the fawn, nor even the stag, but on my making a sign to which he had been accustomed, stopped close behind me. Sometimes he played with the fawn, at
other

other times he would go in search of the stag, and bring him to the place where we were without alarming him: I had no trouble in taming the fawn; like me it had a great deal of sincerity, and there subsisted between us, that which a great writer whose works I have read, calls "*The confidence of good hearts.*" You may easily suppose that the hind grew familiar with very little difficulty. The mother of an animal is too affectionate to forsake its young, if she is not compelled to it. So that possessing one, and the love of the other, secured them both to me. I gathered grass, which I brought them. This I did with a great deal of caution, lest I should drive them away: for some days I did not dare to bring the grass, except within a certain distance, to the hind, but each day ventured a few steps nearer; at last being used to

see me, she suffered me to come almost to her, without being frightened. I soon had the happiness to caress the fawn while it sucked; I call it happiness, and I pity those who have not felt my sensations.

SOME time after I had handled the fawn, the hind suffered me to caress her, she even seemed to take delight in my tenderness. She was young, and had never yet been terrified or chased; so that she had that confidence, that native simplicity of all animals, which they insensibly lose, when they find themselves exposed to dangers. She avoided me before, because she was directed by the stag, who perhaps was old, and experience had made him timid; she wished to save her young one from every shadow of danger, and from the same cause

cause that had urged her to avoid me before, she now partook with her fawn, the dangers of my approach. She seemed to ask me by her looks, not to abuse the confidence she reposed in me, by taking advantage of her weakness or my own strength: nor to violate the laws of nature and humanity. She seemed to say to me; "You are not a beast of prey, you may live like me on vegetables; would you have the cruelty to prefer to so agreeable and innocent a repast, a barbarous feast, by tearing the bleeding limbs of a creature that is at your mercy, that never injured you, and that begs your protection." My looks and manner were answerable to her wishes, and encouraged her: our society was soon upon an intimate and pleasing footing: we thought, we conversed in silence, and no interest divided

divided our opinion. The fawn grew, and we frolicked together.

ALL that I observed charmed me, and made me seek beyond myself, beyond heaven, for that great Being whom I thought I saw every where, without his presence being confined to any space.

My existence seemed to be multiplied; the superior part of my soul was filled with those sublime ideas, whilst that part which more nearly affects the senses, enjoyed the beauties of nature, and the pleasures produced by the innocent society I had just formed.

THE fire, which I did not neglect to keep up, also contributed to my happiness.

I knew

I knew no fire but that of the sun, and this which I had accidentally discovered. I was on the point of finding a third, which was very terrible. For above an hour past, I had seen dark clouds gather in every part of the sky, but chiefly towards the west. The air grew heavy: I heard at a great distance a hollow noise, like the waves of the sea when agitated. This noise increased in proportion as the firmament darkened. At length I saw glisten in the air great streaks of fire, which was followed by a dreadful explosion.

I then thought the cannon of the ship which I had seen sail from my island were in heaven. I even believed that the ship, stopped, by being bounded by the sea, and not extending further than the visible horizon, had mounted into the
3 heavens,

heavens, where it seemed to join the sea; and that it sailed then over my head. I lifted my eyes, and thought I saw it: I went into my cavern for fear it should crush me in falling. The claps of thunder redoubled, and my terror augmented; particularly when I saw the lightning strike a tree, at the distance of about two hundred paces from me, dry it up, and shiver it to the root. Happily, a heavy rain ended the storm, the sun appeared again, and nature resumed her beauty and her freshness.

SOME days after I was alarmed in another way, but it did not last long. The sun darkened in the noon-day; I regarded it weeping and holding up my hands to it: I saw it covered by degrees; but it was scarcely covered, when it began to appear on the opposite side, and:

and increased also by degrees, till it had brought its whole orbit to my view. I concluded from thence, very judiciously, that another body had passed between it and me.

In the course of my observations, I sometimes saw spots: these marks as they were very wild, appeared to me to be suspicious; and I began to fear they would affable in the night and come and devour me in my cave: I detested the creature with a hostile mind with branches interwoven, and with this barrier I sleep quietly.

One morning as I returned from the evening room, I put down under some trees, till I could reach them, a tripod cross to take his share; I grew in a fury. "That monster, said I, would be eat my roots, because I have rejected him from devouring me?"

CHAP. XLV.

IN the course of my discoveries, I sometimes saw rabbits: these animals, as they were very wild, appeared to me to be suspicious; and I began to fear they would assemble in the night, and come and devour me in my cave: I defended the entrance with a hurdle made with branches interwoven, and with this barrier I slept quietly.

ONE morning as I returned from gathering roots, I put them under some trees, till I could roast them; a rabbit came to take his share; I grew in a fury. "That monster, said I, would he eat my roots, because I have hindered him from devouring me?"

I was

I was at a small distance from it, and it did not see me; in my hand I had a thick, short stick, which I threw with such violence, and so exactly, that the rabbit fell more than half dead. I ran to it, and was insensible enough quietly to behold it tumbling and struggling with death. Passion extinguished humanity, for a time, but this amiable sentiment soon got the better.——I was affected to see the poor animal suffer such pain, charging me by its motion, by its looks, with having destroyed before its time, and without the consent of nature, a being over which I had no right, but what strength and dexterity had assumed. I reproached myself with the hardness of my heart, but it was in vain that I wished to restore it: all I could do for the unfortunate expiring creature, was to end its pain and its life, and in pity give it a last

a last stroke: I gave one, and it instantly died.

I determined never to kill another animal, but if I found one dead, that was not corrupted, could not I nourish myself with it, and find a more pleasing food in it than roots? Was it not with this kind of flesh that they fed me in my prison? My rabbit can clear up these doubts: I had a mind to try: I had, however, a great struggle with my horror, but my curiosity soon got the better.—The blood streamed from my lips upon my stomach, and upon my hands. Shocked at what I had done, I threw it into a bush, and went to wash me in the next pond: I looked at myself in the crystal fountain, (I never shall think of it without trembling): my lips, that till then looked so fresh and like vermillion, were all covered with blood of a blackish hue.

hue, from whence issued in smoke the remains of a life not yet extinguished. I resembled a wolf that had just devoured a lamb. I resigned myself to grief; my tears washed away part of the badge of cruelty; then only I was content with myself: I promised positively never again to be a tiger; and that whenever I should see a rabbit, or any other animal, I would tell it in friendship, that I never should stain my lips with its blood, that its cry should never rise from the bottom of my heart, to disturb my peace.

AT some time after this scene, I saw another, which though less tragical, heightened the heinousness of the first crime to my view. A raven exhausted with age, and weary of living, was lying on the grass in the shade of some trees. That a bird should lie down seemed to me somewhat supernatural; I came near

it expecting to find it dead; but it was not yet, though almost expiring; it fixed its eyes upon me, I observed it.—The eyes trembled and grew dim, it half opened its beak: it extended its claws, its wings, it expired.—Ah! cried I, if I am to cease to live, may my death be as mild as that of this bird: but let not a monster, such as I am, lay violent hands upon me, lest I should expire in agonies, like the unfortunate animal that fell a victim to my fury!

Hunger importuned me, I went to eat some roots, and I returned with my sharp stone to dissect the raven, and to find the fire, which I suspected to have been in the body of the rabbit. But I came too late; there was nothing remained in the place where I had left it, but bones and feathers. Doubtless some bird of prey devoured it; for it could not be my dog,

as

as I kept him carefully by my side, since I had thrown the rabbit away, lest he might eat it, which would make him an accomplice in the murder I had committed.

DEATH had now presented itself to my view under different aspects, in the fishes, in the squirrel, in the rabbit, and in the raven: I afterwards saw it in other shapes. I shall only describe one more of these very disagreeable scenes, and should abstain even from this, but that it is connected with another that deeply affected me.

CHAP. XLVI.

THE agility of birds pleased me much, yet they sometimes made me impatient; I wished to follow them to see all their works, and particularly I wanted to observe how they multiplied; for I began to have a distant idea that creatures did multiply, since the time that I had observed the hind produce the fawn. Birds never appeared to me to be larger at one time than another, which made me suspect they did not belong to the earth, that they only came down to it to divert themselves, but that their habitation was in the heavens, that there the mothers brought forth the young.

A female

A female chaffinch (for I have never forgot her colour, now I know what a chaffinch is) soon taught me what I so earnestly wished to know, how the birds produce their young? I saw her carrying in her beak a snail, and I believed it to have been the blossom of a filberd or nut-tree, for I did not yet imagine that animals eat each other; a sweet error from which I was just going to be awakened.

I kept within view of the bird I wanted to observe; it went into a bush, and I drew near without noise; I heard tender little cries, of which I could not guess the meaning; but they did not sound plaintive, and rather seemed to denote avidity than sorrow. I raised myself up on my tip-toes; I stretched my neck, and I saw in a round bowl of moss, four little animals half naked, who

stretched out a kind of arms, and opened their beak: this last indication was the only one by which I knew them to be birds. The astonishment, the stupor, which this new sight threw me into, transfixed me to the ground; I looked, but I saw nothing distinctly.—The mother flew away; I looked again, and then laid me down at the side of the bush. This new order of things confounded all my ideas: I could not tell what to think of them. The mother returned; I admired with what eagerness, with what equity she distributed the food; I admired with what sweet security the little things settled themselves to sleep after they had been fed; I was afraid to disturb them: I kept in my breath, and I would have kept back the breezes of the air; I made repeated signs to every thing around me to keep silence.

I had

I had seen in the nest a round stone, which excited my curiosity : Whence does this stone come, and why is it there, thought I?—The first lesson of instruction which Nature gives is that of the touch. I took that which appeared to be a stone ; I pressed it a little, it was an egg ; it broke in my fingers, I let it fall ; I then perceived a little living bird, or rather an expiring one : had it not been for me, it would have appeared to the light like the others, and have become an ornament to nature ; my ignorance and inattention has sunk it again into its original nothing : it put out its claw and its neck with convulsive motions ; it strove to open its bill, that had already changed colour and was livid : I knew these frightful symptoms to be the harbingers of death ; it is easy to judge, without having had any examples, by the horror which it inspires.

BUT this was not the first being I had seen expire : a squirrel and a rabbit had already made an impression which can never be effaced from my heart.

I covered the bird which I had killed with earth, turning away my eyes from it. I perceived little bits of egg shells near that which I had broke, and I did not doubt but the birds that were in the nest had dwelt in eggs, from whence they had broke forth without meeting any accident, because all the works of nature are generally good ; but I knew nothing but to mar and destroy every thing I touched.—Eggs, said I, contain birds, as the hind contained its fawn ; eggs must, therefore, be the mothers of birds.—But whence come those eggs ? They have no appearance of motion or of life : How then can they give to the little things they produce, these
two

two precious faculties which they do not possess themselves? Yet why does this bird come to feed them with so much care, if she is not their mother? These reasonings should not astonish the reader: I had long observed the maternal tenderness of a mother to her offspring, and I could have discoursed upon it for ever. My mind wandered a little longer on this subject, but I soon gave up the sublime theory, and preferred an easier, a softer pleasure, that of beholding this attentive nurse return to her little family. A moment after there came a mother, but not the same: this had more marked and lively colours. When she had cast her eye upon the nest, she leaped from branch to branch, complaining: doubtless she had observed that the young one which was unhatched had been taken away; she did not,

however, go till she had fed the others. I was so concealed that she could not distinguish me, though I saw every thing that passed at my ease. She appeared to come reluctantly near one of the young ones, which was considerably larger than the rest; she threw into its mouth a bit of the food she had brought, and flew away.

THE bird which I had twice seen before soon returned; I could easily distinguish that this was the female by the plainness of her plumage, and her tender eagerness to assist them: she flew herself into the nest; and, without giving herself time to see if the last egg was hatched, she put her head, as it were, to all their mouths at once; she hastened to distribute the food she had collected, without reserving any for herself.

self.—Without my assistance her fondness would, probably, have cost her her life; the strongest of her children, that which the other seemed so much to fear (but a mother is incapable of fear, or even of suspicion) had seized her head, and squeezed it with all its strength. I took it away with indignation, with horror: I pressed its stomach; instinct alone taught me that would make it open its beak; it had the desired effect, and the unfortunate mother drew out her head almost expiring, and I fell'd the monster, for such it appeared to me, and threw it far away from me: the mother, still panting, looked at me with sensibility (I held her in my hand): she seemed to say, “ You are my deliverer, “ and the deliverer of my children, “ which are a thousand times dearer to “ me than myself; we will love you,

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“ we

"we will follow you for ever." The ungrateful wretch that I sacrificed was not her child; it was a stranger, which her blind affection made her adopt: it was a cuckoo. It is well known that the female of this bird not having sufficient heat to hatch her young (she has generally a good many, but lays one only in each nest) deposits them in the nest of a less bird, that it may devour when it had strength: the kind mother had loved it as her own. I then did not know any thing of this; I only observed to myself, that this terrible bird which I had killed, because it deserved it, could not have been brother to those with which it lived; it could not have been generated from an egg, such as that from which they came.

ABOUT the month of July, I began what may be called Ornithology, or the study

study of birds. This amusement, my fire, my dog, and my hind, made me pass the rest of this fine season agreeably.

C H A P. XLVII.

TOwards the end of September, or the beginning of October, the days sensibly shortened; some hoar frost, and leaves fell, all which disturbed me. Happily, chance taught me to make a fire, and want made me recollect that among the clothes which I had found in my cage, there were two large bear skins; being now used to see them, they did not frighten me. I went and took one, and wrap'd myself up in it, putting the hair next me, for it was for warmth, and not ornament, I wore habits: I was pleased that I had clothed myself. I was now defended from any severe attacks of cold; but this afforded me little comfort for the dismal prospect
3 of

of the drooping and naked aspect of the earth. Every day it lost some of its ornaments; every day I dreaded more to quit my cave. There was nothing to be seen, and I had nothing to expect but misfortunes.

ONE morning I perceived from the bottom of my cave, the broom all covered with the hoar frost; I threw down hastily the wicker door which I had made to defend me against the incroachments of the rabbits, and I darted precipitately from my inclosure to conquer the aversion I had to going out. Torrents of tears ran down my cheeks: I cried, I sobb'd, and sigh'd. Almost all the leaves had fallen in the night, and the rest were breaking loose from their branches; they seemed desirous to attach themselves to other branches which they touched as they passed, and appeared

to descend to the earth with regret : would I could have hindered their falling ! I stretched out my hands to them, I strove to keep them up : but alas ! my care was superfluous ! I turned my head away to spare myself the pain of beholding an evil which I could not prevent, and I continued to weep bitterly.

IF the reader is surprized that I should shed so many tears for the falling leaves, remember that *Nature* only began her work upon you, and that *Art* unfortunately finished you : consequently it is possible that you might behold nature afflicted without emotion ; but I, whom she alone had formed ; I, who was entirely the work of her hands, could I avoid sighing when I saw my mother expiring, and did not know that she would shortly be born again.

WITH

WITH some indignation I took hold of a shrub that was under my hand; I examined it with attention, and I saw under the leaves that were falling, little buds, in which were wrapped up leaves, such as I had seen blow when I first came into the island. This appearance made me conceive the greatest hopes. Filled with joy, I went to caress my hind and fawn: as I went along, I caressed my dog, who cordially partook both of my pleasures and uneasiness. I told them by gestures, and by inarticulate sounds, what great uneasiness I suffered, and what had appeased my anguish. I broke off a small twig; I split one of the buds with my nail, and I shewed them that shortly new leaves would shoot forth to replace those that were falling, which gave me so much pain, and I doubted not but they were also afflicted.

SOME time after, the cold grew less sharp, the firmament was covered with clouds, and there fell a heavy and continued rain (it might then have been about the end of November). I saw the buds of the trees grow big; I was at the height of my wishes. My happiness was soon interrupted by a very severe frost, which shut up all nature's stores. The first day I could hardly pull my roots out of the earth. I judged, if I did not make an ample provision, the earth might bind them in more firmly, and I should die with hunger. A man who has nothing to render life either inconvenient or hateful, does not neglect the means to preserve it. I spent all that day in gathering roots, which I carried to my cave, for fear the rabbits should devour them, and where I was certain they would be sheltered from the cold. I had gathered enough
for

for six weeks provisions at least ; and I roasted them as I had occasion. The frost lasted near a month : I perceived that my hind and fawn, whom I went to see every day, began to pine (for they had not a store of provision like me) : I offered them some of my baked roots, but they would not taste them ; I then offered them some of the raw, that had their leaves on ; they eat them with an avidity which convinced me they were hungry ; and as they fed, they looked at me with an expression, which explained fully their gratitude ; I was affected with it, and loved them more. Soon after, the stag, who had neglected me a little during the summer, came to seek shelter near me : I had a mind to receive him coolly, and even not to give him any of my roots, because I suspected that necessity only made him return to me : but this reflection arose in my mind ; he has
not

not loved me by a kind of sympathy like the hind and fawn, but he will now love me through gratitude; and if he ceases to love me, the pleasure of having done good, will be a sufficient reward and comfort to me.——M. de Voltaire's sentiment, which I have since read, is plain and natural; it is contained in these words:

“ Il est grand, il est beau de faire des ingrats.”

C H A P. XLVIII.

ONE of the last days of the frost, I was still sleeping at the bottom of my cave; the sun was already risen. I jumped up, and saw thro' the branches with which my door was woven, a great white surface; I ran to the door, and threw it down as usual, and I saw the whole universe reduced to four great objects, heaven, the sun, the sea, and the snow.

THAT soft and pleasing variety which made the earth look more beautiful even than the sky, was no longer to be seen: but a sparkling whiteness produced a sight truly simple, noble and grand. I admired it without being able
to

to comprehend the meaning of it. I put one foot trembling on the snow, it sunk, my terror redoubled, I fell on my face : I imagined that as I fell a gulph opened beneath me immediately, and as quick as lightning my muscles stretched so violently that I found myself on my legs before I had well touched the ground. I retired terrified ; I knew the print of my body, I observed that my foot pressed the snow closely together, I saw the earth at the bottom of the hole I had made by my falling, and consequently I saw the depth of the snow (it was about a foot deep). I walked in the trench that I had made, I risqued going a step further ; with great precaution and fear I took five or six others. I had at last courage, and even took delight in pressing the snow, and making marks with my feet. Besides, my dog who was better informed than me, and who had

had already taught me many other things, walked into it boldly and frisked about. I ran towards my fire, and was surprised to find it was not covered with snow. Happily I had put on many great branches over night before I retired to sleep, or it would have been extinguished. The cinders kept kindled under a crust of ashes, which was cemented and hardened by the snow, which made me believe that fire would burn the snow; I threw a handful on, and it extinguished it as soon as it touched it; I then set about shaking the branches violently, which I had collected to burn; I settled them on the cinders, and immediately I had the pleasure to see them blaze. I went directly to cut others with a hedging-hook, which I had lately found among the rocks on the western shore, in a part of the island very remote from my cage. They certainly
left

left it there the day I disembarked, and they left it at so great a distance, purposely that I might not find it for some time, or till experience should enlighten me to guess at the manner of using it, without danger of hurting myself.

I passed the morning in making experiments on the snow, in lighting my fire, cutting wood, and particularly in comforting the unhappy, for I had swept away the snow in many places round my cave, that my cattle might graze. It was a morning well spent : I had done all this with so much eagerness that I had never once thought of eating.

WHILE I was at dinner, sitting on the ground devouring my roots, I saw great clouds gathering in the sky ; they soon after burst, and the air was filled with flakes of snow. This sight astonished

inished and afflicted me. What is this, I thought I? Will the snow rise to the height of the trees? Will it shut up the entrance to my cave, quench my fire, and become my tomb? Giving way to those frightful reflections, I felt my limbs bend under me, I fell to the ground, and wished that my existence might terminate, or rather, that it never had begun.

C H A P. XLIX.

AS soon as the snow began to fall, I ran to my fire for protection. There I sat me down, covered with my bear skin, my arms folded, my head bowed on my breast; my eyes only retained action; I cast them about sadly from side to side, to see if the snow increased much: I feared that by falling on my fire it would extinguish it, but on the contrary, it appeared to make it burn more fiercely.

THE heavens were covered with heavy clouds, the wind broke loose with such violence, that I thought it would tear the trees up by the roots, and carry off my fire; the snow that fell on the trees
was

was shaken off in an instant : on a sudden I saw the eastern sea, which before had been almost intirely hid from me by the branches, in a most frightful agitation ; the surge rose almost to the sky : this astonishing sight was charming, though terrible to behold. I could not guess what was to be the end of all this ; I trembled more with fear than cold ; I braced myself, and wrapped me up in my fur ; I gazed at the heaven, the sea, the earth, and I wept ; my mind was not in a state to make reflections, nor was I philosopher enough to feel a gloomy pleasure, at being alone in a tempest.

HOPE and joy were soon restored to me. I passed about an hour in that melancholy state, when the firmament began to clear up, and the sun appeared again ; my ideas, and my reasoning, quickened with the new disposition of my heart.

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(We attribute to the mind many systems which do not belong to it). I tried to explain to myself what snow was ; at first it appeared to me that it was a kind of rain, that congealed in falling : but as I reasoned deeply for many months, and that I began to admire miracles, I thought this explanation too simple to be true. I preferred the following :

“ The innumerable flakes that descend
“ from heaven to earth are doubtless the
“ first blossoms, with which all the fruit-
“ trees in the island were covered at my
“ arrival, and certainly the fine season
“ that produces these blossoms is at hand ;
“ I shall see how this great miracle is
“ worked, and I shall forget the anxiety
“ which the preparation for so happy,
“ a revolution created in me.” However,
the frost lasted some days longer, and
was at length ended by a mild rain, that
melted all the snow, and went near to de-
stroy

stroy my natural philosophy : but prejudice never fails in argument to support it. I supposed that the snow which I saw melt and dissolve into water, would assume in the earth that imbibed it, the form which it had lost, and that I should soon see it cloathed in this appearance, shoot forth through the buds of the trees.

SOME weeks after, the event appeared to confirm my opinion, and strengthen me in my errors ; or rather, as soon as I saw the trees in bloom, I thought no more of reasoning on this prodigy. The *Man of Nature* loves to possess, he only reasons when he has nothing better to employ him. The smallest blossom appears to him infinitely preferable to the finest and most sublime speculations.—

I saw the blossoms first shoot out : I saw them blow : what a delightful sight to

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regale

regale the eyes, and unspotted soul, of one who has no worldly cares to disturb him ! After this frost, which was the severest in the course of the winter, I perceived the days lengthen, which removed all my fears of the eternal night, with which I believed myself threatened, when the days shortened by almost one half, from the month of August to January. The sun grew warmer, the grass sprung up in a beautiful and lively verdure ; the buds swelled, and seemed impatient to open.

BIRDS, by a warbling louder than their wonted melody, more ardent than tender, seemed to invite each other to engagements ; and by their shrill chirping to express delicious desires.

SPRING proclaimed its arrival for near a month to my eyes, to every faculty
I pos-

I possessed : every day produced some
new colouring, some fresh charms :
Ah ! what heart would be capable of
supporting the charms of the spring, did
it break upon us all at once !

CHAP. L.

THE soft and enlivening heat that descended from heaven, the perfumes which the earth returned as a tribute of gratitude ; the notes of the birds, more constant, more melodious, and more tender than they were some time before ; the sportings of my fawn, my hind, and my dog, who caressed me in a more sprightly manner than usual ; the enamel of the flowers, the fine verdure that began to cover the trees ; in a word, Nature grown young again, penetrated my heart with a soft inexpressible delight.

THOUGH I did not love to reason,
when I had any thing to enjoy, yet I
reasoned

reasoned at that time, but I reasoned without pain or compulsion; it was rather from the heart than the mind, it was not *ideas* but *sentiments* which I gathered.

“ I have passed here, thought I, a
“ temperate, a hot, a second temperate,
“ and an inclement season : I had never
“ observed, at least to any great degree,
“ those differences in my cage ; but I
“ was shut up, and perhaps the action
“ of the air was interrupted, and could
“ not get into it. Besides, I ought to
“ consider that space of time, in every
“ respect as void. I saw nothing but
“ what I have seen since I have been
“ here ; now, I see the first temperate
“ season returned, with the same appear-
“ ances, the same signs that I had re-
“ marked on my arrival in the island.
“ It must then be the same, and it will

“ be followed by three others yet; and
 “ certainly this revolution ended, it will
 “ again begin. Cannot this order
 “ change? Cannot it be more regular,
 “ more useful, more wise? How and
 “ why is it so? How and why reigns
 “ this continual succession of night and
 “ day, of cold and heat? How and
 “ why does the seed which I saw fall
 “ from a plant at the end of summer,
 “ lie dead as a grain of sand during
 “ the winter, and that they now get
 “ little arms, which they sink into the
 “ earth, at the same time that others
 “ much stronger, covered with leaves,
 “ rise towards heaven? How and why
 “ is the course of the sun and moon so
 “ exact, so just, &c. — My will di-
 “ rects at pleasure the motion of my
 “ body and all my limbs.—The island
 “ which I inhabit, heaven and the stars
 “ that

“ that roll over my head, whose mo-
“ tions are so regular ; all this is cer-
“ tainly one great body, directed also
“ by a will far superior to me and the
“ sun. Whence come all those beings ?
“ from whence do I myself proceed ?
“ This is indeed an impenetrable my-
“ stery ; but from whencesoever we
“ come, whatever is our essence, and
“ the materials of which we are formed,
“ doubtless we have received that from
“ the same power which gave us motion
“ and life. The form of each being is
“ perfect ; it is uniform and invariable,
“ even in its changes ; for they are all
“ marked, and can neither be antici-
“ pated nor retarded a moment. It must
“ be then, that this Supreme Will is a
“ Being, infinitely powerful, infinitely
“ wise.—O great and omnipotent Be-
“ ing, the sun, myself, and all that
“ exist,

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“ exist, exist by thee alone ! I acknowledge thy power, thy wisdom, thy goodness : I thank thee, I adore thee.”

As I pronounced these words in my heart, my eyes were bathed in tears : I lifted my hands towards heaven : a holy trembling seized me, I cast myself down with my face to the earth (Nature alone teaches men this expressive manner of acknowledging the superiority and power of God). I remained some time in this humble attitude ; my heart was filled with the most lively sentiments of veneration and respect.

If I am asked how, at scarce sixteen years old, I was capable of such deep reflections ; I answer, that my soul yet preserved its native purity ; it was not
5 divided

divided either by trifling subjects or crimes ; so that although it was young and weak, it might soar high.

How happy was this day, when that eternal light, of which I had hitherto only seen broken and reflected rays, came to present itself to my mind in all its splendour ! At this glorious æra, I terminate the history of my natural and solitary life. I passed more years in my island : each of which was only a repetition of the first ; why should I have wished a change when I had passed this one so agreeably ? I had passed it without weariness, because I had none of those trifling amusements of the world that necessarily excite lassitude, and because I knew how to find happiness in myself, and to extract from all around me additional felicity, in employing myself,

self, in labouring, in assisting nature in all she designed to do for me. Nothing was wanting to me, but to cease to be alone, for this is a state to which *Nature* never destined us.

CHAP. LI.

AT the return of every spring I went to see my cage, and I could not conceive why, being of wood like the trees, it was square, and they were round, it was hollow, and they were solid; it produced neither leaves nor blossoms, the trees produced both. (I suspected that this was occasioned by its not being attached either to heaven or earth). Wearied with finding it always barren, I grew impatient, and I knocked it to pieces with the ax or hedging-hook: it made no great resistance, being half rotten: thus taking it asunder, I perceived the nails that held the boards together, and the two iron pivots on which the turning-box moved. This cage, my ax, and my cloaths, which I scornfully suffered

suffered to be destroyed, appeared to be the work of another hand, than that which formed animals and plants, and of a much inferior one. I was desirous to find out the cause of this difference; but where and how was I to seek it?

AGITATED with these reflections, I went to walk by the side of the great rock, that had frightened me so much the first year of my being on the island, when a number of voices answered me, from the bottom of the cavern, *Let him alone.*" From that time I had carefully avoided this rock, and all around it. I was not more curious to see a long chain of mountains that was behind this rock. I frequented more agreeable walks in other parts of the island, and I had taken an aversion to the rock. I shunned my happiness; but how could I have foreseen it? At length inquietude and curiosity led me to that side.

AFTER

AFTER I had broke up my cage, had put some wood on my fire, and had made a hearty meal of roots, I went to the mountains: I walked round the steepest of them, and discovering an accessible place, I ascended it: from its summit I saw and admired my vast domain: it extended far beyond the mountains: the forest near which I had made my fire, terminated in a large fertile plain, which the sea bathed on all sides. To take a nearer view, and more at my leisure, of so many great objects, I must necessarily spend a whole day; therefore I resolved to return very early the next morning, and to carry provisions with me. I stayed two or three hours, admiring the magnificent and extensive perspective, that surrounded my mountain: but as I did not dare to pass the night in those unknown regions, I returned to my fire,

and my cave, as soon as I saw the sun descend.

SOMETHING was wanting to my happiness: I had not seen my fawns nor my hinds that day, (I had tamed many in my solitude); I quickened my pace to go seek them. How frequently do we turn our back upon the road that leads to our desires, in our precipitate search for them! My hinds and my fawns were on the mountains, having followed me: they joined me, and we caressed each other a thousand times: I returned to my cave, I eat, and I lay down to sleep: I passed the greatest part of that night in a delightful agitation, in comparison of which, sleep seemed to me to be only a state of annihilation. I rose long before the dawn of day (it was moon light); I laid some wood on my fire; I took my bundle of roots, and I departed without

my dog, whom I had unthinkingly left in my cave : he did not desire to follow me, for as it was not yet day, he thought I should soon return.

I walked very fast for near an hour; I came to the mountain where I had been the day before. Assisted by the weak light of the moon, that was soon darkened by the Aurora, which began to appear, I discovered on the side of the hill on which I stood, many animals, some large, others of a middling size, playing, toying, and by intervals browsing the new grass. I knew they were not my companions, my friends : I ran, and I made haste to come up with them : a desire to see them, and play among them, augmented my impatience ; I cleft the air, and scarce left a mark of my foot on the ground.

HOWEVER,

However, I saw my flock at a distance
 dispersing: one fawn and its dam only
 took the same road with me; they did
 not run very fast; I followed them, and
 we arrived together at the borders of
 the forest, where the plain opened. My
 fawn returned my caresses but coldly; it
 appeared to be busied with other things
 than me; it escaped from my hands and
 went into the forest; I followed it.

The first glow of the sun had begun
 to issue from beneath the veil of Aurora:
 I did not believe that this glorious sight
 could ever appear more rapturous than
 it did at this moment. The hour how-
 ever approached, when it was to appear
 to my sight with redoubled lustre.

END of the FIRST VOLUME.



